THURSDAY
May 1, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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വിഴിഞ്ഞം നവകേരളത്തിന്റെ വിജയഗാഥ

Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd
Thiruvananthapuram
(A Govt of Kerala Undertaking)

adani
Ports and Logistics

നവകേരളം കുതിപ്പിലേക്ക് 10 പിണറായി വിജയൻ സർക്കാർ 10-ാം വർഷത്തിലേക്ക്

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

The future docks in Kerala

Vizhinjam opens a global gateway for India

Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport
will be dedicated to the nation by the
Hon'ble Prime Minister, **Shri. Narendra Modi,**
in the esteemed presence of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala,
Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan.

2025 MAY 02 | Friday
Vizhinjam Port, Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala takes a historic step towards making India a global maritime powerhouse, with the dedication of India's first automated, deep-water international container trans-shipment terminal in Thiruvananthapuram. The groundbreaking infrastructure project will mark Kerala's emergence as a global maritime hub, while ushering in a promising future for India's maritime industry. A testament to successful public-private collaboration, the port that can accommodate the world's largest container ships will firmly place the country on the global trans-shipment map.

Technology: First Automated Terminal run mainly by women CRMG operators | **Capital Investments:** ₹ 18,000 Cr (for all phases)
Natural Depth: 18-20 metres | **Connectivity:** 10 nautical miles from International Shipping Route | **Capacity:** Upto 5 million TEUs/annum (at full capacity)

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SC Bench transfers case on Lokpal order

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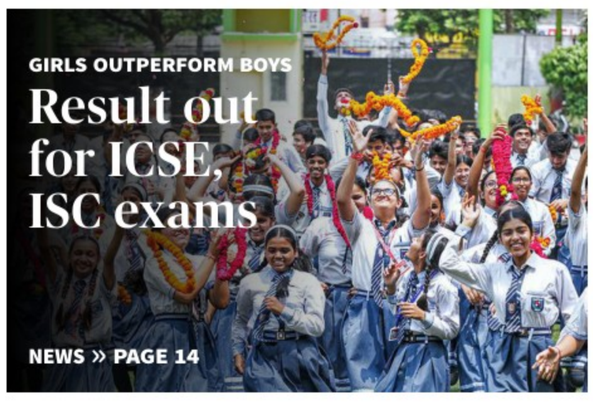

GIRLS OUTPERFORM BOYS

Result out for ICSE, ISC exams

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ARRAY OF NUANCES

Deal to end Ukraine war complex: Kremlin

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INDIA'S SHAME

The trap of bonded labour

India's economy thrives on its most vulnerable, as forced labour

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CHAHAL, SHREYAS SHINE

Kings do the double over Super Kings

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

3 more coaches for Yellow Line metro shipped

BENGALURU
A fresh batch of coaches for Namma Metro's Yellow Line was dispatched from Kolkata on Tuesday, according to BMRCL. Three coaches from the third train set were shipped from the Titagarh factory, while the remaining three will be dispatched by May 2. » Page 2

Services of pourakarmikas to be regularised

BENGALURU
The services of as many as 12,692 pourakarmikas in the city will be regularised by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike on Thursday. » Page 4

Cabinet decides to include caste count in next Census

Census to enumerate caste for the first time in Independent India; dates for the delayed Census yet to be notified; the count will promote inclusion and pave new paths of progress, says Shah

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has decided to include caste enumeration as part of the next Census exercise, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced on Wednesday.

Though the decision comes months ahead of the Bihar Assembly election, the dates for the next decennial Census exercise, last held in 2011, are yet to be notified by the government. The 2021 Census has been postponed indefinitely, initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The last time that India's entire population was counted by caste was in pre-Independent India, in 1931. Since then, only Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been counted in the Census exercises.

Finer details: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw briefing the media on the cabinet decision on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

However, reservation measures for education and employment have expanded to include Other Backward Classes (OBCs), all based on projection and estimates from the British-era head count.

Unlike the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), which was done outside the purview of the Census exercise and did not mandate caste disclosure, this time, caste will be enumerated in the second and final phase of the Census, giving the count a statutory backing.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that as the next Census would be conducted in digital mode for the first time, an "other" column with a drop down code directory containing the names of the castes will likely be added in the Census mobile application. The official added that the software for this is currently undergoing tests.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on X that "the Congress and its allies opposed the caste census for decades while in power and played politics over it while in the Opposition". He said that the decision "will promote inclusion and pave new paths for the progress of the deprived."

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RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGES 6 & 13

U.S. urges India and Pak. to 'de-escalate'; Rubio talks to Sharif

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

The U.S. has called on India and Pakistan "not to escalate" the tension between them following the Pahalgam terror attack, the U.S. State Department said on Tuesday.

Washington was reaching out to both New Delhi and Islamabad regarding the Kashmir situation and telling them not to escalate the situation, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday, Mr. Sharif's office said in a statement. Ms. Bruce had said that Mr. Rubio was expected to speak "at the earliest" to Foreign Ministers of both countries.

Mr. Sharif accused India of "escalatory and provocative behavior" and urged the U.S. to impress upon India to dial down the rhetoric and act responsibly, the statement added.

Marco Rubio

Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on Wednesday that the country had credible intelligence that India intends to launch a military strike within the next 36 hours.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

India closes its airspace to airlines from Pakistan

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday banned Pakistan airlines from using its airspace amid escalating tensions with the neighbouring country in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

Sources said that a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) has been issued that bars Pakistan airlines from using the Indian airspace.

The move comes a week after Pakistan barred Indian carriers from using its airspace.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's national carrier on Wednesday cancelled all flights to and from northern areas in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir due to security reasons, local media reports said. Officials said the measures are precautionary and aimed at ensuring national airspace security during the regional tension.

14 persons killed as fire rips through Kolkata hotel

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Fourteen persons, two of them children, were killed and 13 injured as a massive fire swept through a hotel in the Mechua market area of Burrabazar in central Kolkata on Tuesday evening.

The fire broke out around 8.15 p.m. in the six-storey Rituraj Hotel and could be brought under control only post-midnight. Fourteen fire engines worked overnight to douse the flames completely, officials said.

Most of the victims died due to suffocation as the narrow lanes of Burrabazar made rescue operations difficult. One person died after jumping from the building to escape the fire. Many of the victims were traders and their family members who had come to the city to buy raw materials. The Mechua market is one of the biggest wholesale fruit markets in the region.

Owners absconding

Commissioner of Police Manoj Kumar Verma said a Special Investigation Team had been formed to investigate the cause of the fire. A case has been lodged against the two owners of the building, who are absconding. Indira Mukherjee, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Division, said 88 guests and 60 staff members were present in the 42-room hotel at the time of incident. Local people claimed that the hotel did not have proper fire safety equipment.

Eight of the bodies have been identified. Of the 13 injured, 12 have been discharged from hospital, while one remains under observation.

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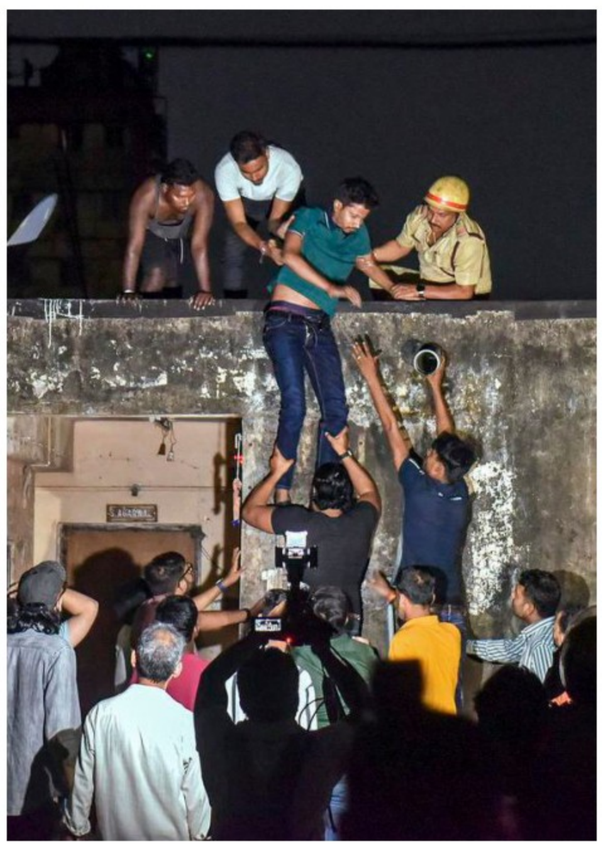
» PAGE 12



Deadly stay: The hotel building that caught fire in Kolkata on Tuesday night. Right, firefighters evacuate people from the building. ANI/PTI

Digital access a part of fundamental right to life and liberty: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Top court says access to digital welfare systems should be inclusive to all sections of society

Inclusive and meaningful digital access to e-governance and welfare delivery systems is a part of the fundamental right to life and liberty, the Supreme Court held in a judgment on Wednesday.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, hearing a petition on how people with disability find it nearly impossible to complete the digital Know Your Customer (KYC) process, said that the state has an obligation to provide an inclusive digital ecosystem to the marginalised, underprivileged, vulnerable, disabled, and historically excluded sections of society. Amidst the "wave of digital progress" in India a crucial aspect often overlooked is whether this technology is truly inclusive, the court said.

"The right to digital access emerges as an instinctive component of the right to life and liberty, necessitating the state to proactively design and implement inclusive digital ecosystems to serve not only the privileged, but also the marginalised," said Justice Mahadevan, who authored the judgment.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

With additional excise duty, beer prices set to go up again

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

FKCCI says the hike will impact the hospitality and tourism sectors adversely

The State government has proposed to impose an additional excise duty of 10% on all beers.

Currently, the excise duty on beer in the State is 195% of the cost of production.

The State's new draft rules mentioned that excise duty will be increased to 205%. It is expected that the price of premium beer brands may increase by about ₹10 per bottle, depending on the cost of production.

The State government has hiked prices of beer consecutively for the last three years. It has argued that it is in the process of rationalising the excise structure.

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) has expressed deep concern over the proposed rise. The proposed hike in liquor prices will impact the hospitality and tourism sectors adversely, leading to reduced consumer spending and potential job losses, it cautioned.

FKCCI president M.G. Balakrishna said, "While we understand the government's need to augment revenue, it is imperative to consider the timing and cumulative impact of these measures. We urge the State government to engage in dialogue with industry stakeholders to devise balanced solutions that support economic growth without overburdening businesses."

Satya Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi anointed the 71st seer to head Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam

The Hindu Bureau
KANCHEEPURAM

Amid the chanting of Vedic hymns and reverberating to the sounds of '*Hara Hara Sankara, Jaya Jaya Sankara*' by devotees, Sri Satya Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi was anointed the 71st seer of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam at a grand ceremony held in Kancheepuram on Wednesday.

Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya, the current seer, inducted his successor, born as Duddu Satya Venkata Surya Subrahmanya Ganesha Sharma Dravid, as the 71st *acharya* by performing the *Sanyasa Deeksha Samaroh* and handing over the '*tandam*' (staff) at the Ganga Theertham of Sri Kanchi Kamakshi Ambal Devasthanam temple here.

Auspicious occasion

Addressing devotees on Wednesday, on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi said Sri Satya Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi had joined the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam family, one of the most important *peetams* in the country, to carry forward the '*Guru Parampara*' tradition.

Satya Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi, left, with the current seer of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam on Wednesday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Immediately after the anointment ceremony, devotees lined up on both sides of the streets to give a rousing welcome to the two seers as they proceeded to the Kanchi Math.

A source in the Kanchi Math said the new seer hailed from a humble family of Vedic scholars from Annavaram in Andhra Pradesh. The 20-year-old newly anointed *acharya* is himself an accomplished scholar in Rig Veda. He pursued Vedic studies for more than 12 years and was serving until recently as a pandit in Sri Gnana Saraswathi Devasthanam at Basara, Telangana.

His father Dhanvantri Sharma is a priest in Sri Sathyanarayana temple of Annavaram in Andhra Pradesh, while his mother Alamelu is a homemaker and his younger sister is pursuing her undergraduation.

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi participated in the anointment ceremony.

CMYK
M BG-BGE

The whims and fancies of being a prodigy

Suryavanshi's jaw-dropping hundred not only stunned Titans but made everyone take notice of the talent of the 14-year-old; the road ahead will be a tricky one and it remains to be seen how he reacts to adulation and fame that accompany success

R. Kaushik

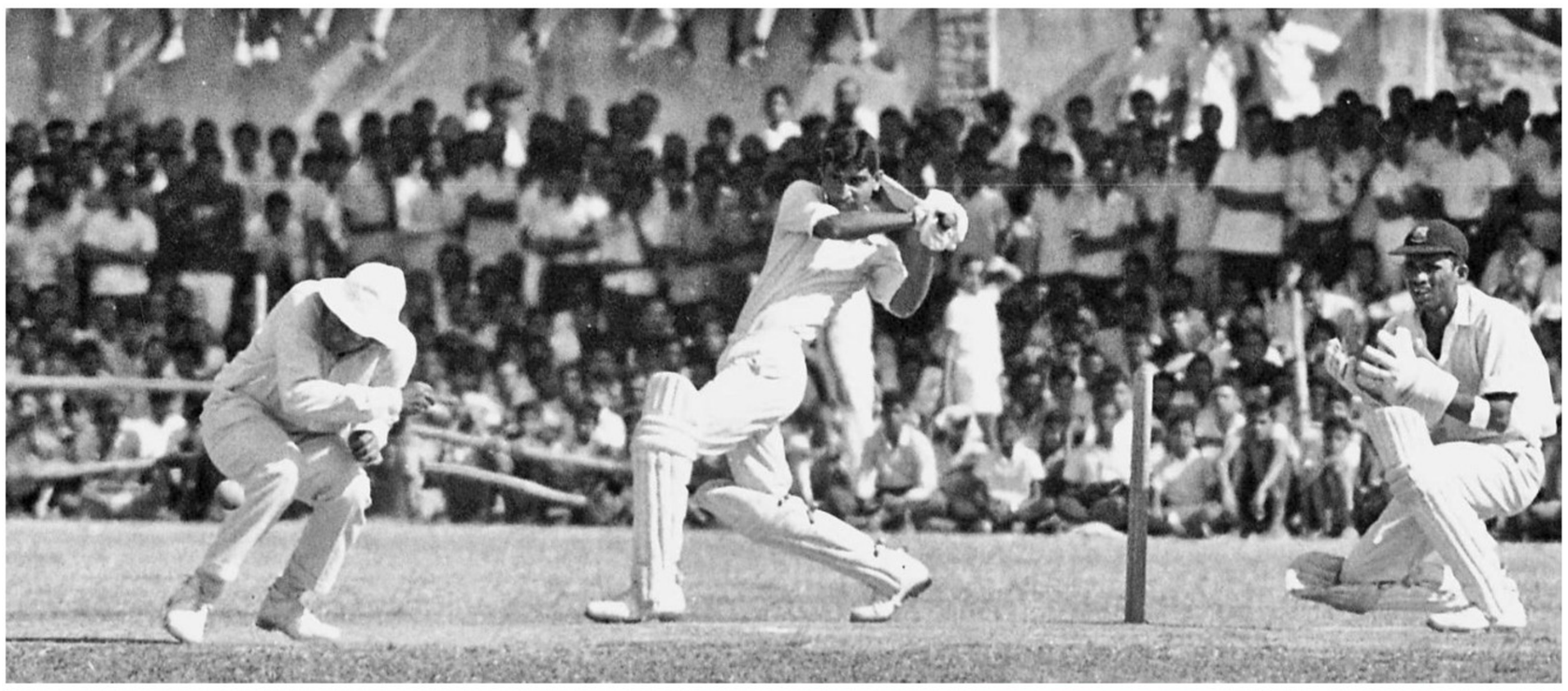
A little under a fortnight ago, the Indian Premier League turned 18. A fortnight prior to that, Vaibhav Suryavanshi celebrated his 14th birthday.

Taken individually, those two sentences are unlikely to excite, merit even a second thought. So what, it happens, right? Events age, even kids grow older. But put them together in context, and Suryavanshi's extraordinary accomplishment on an irregular Monday night assumes jaw-dropping proportions.

The IPL's youngest centurion is four years *younger* than the tournament itself. Now, when did anyone ever foresee that?

The left-hander from Bihar's Samastipur district went from novelty to sensation in precisely 55 minutes and 35 deliveries. After all, that's what it took him to bring up his first senior representative hundred. The youngest, by a country mile, to smash a 20-over century. Obviously, therefore, the youngest IPL centurion. The fastest among Indians to get to three figures in the world's most visible franchise-based T20 tournament, the second fastest of all time, only behind the Universe Boss, Chris Gayle (a ridiculous 30 balls).

In the immediacy of Suryavanshi's other-worldly (to borrow from Ian Bishop) heroics at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, the creative artists threw away the urge to resist temptation, hence the moniker 'Baby Boss.' Smart, really smart. How the Baby Boss' career takes off from here will remain the focus of interest for a long time to come.



Flashback(s), front foot forward: Vishwanath in full flow during a Ranji match (Mysore vs Andhra, Bangalore, 1968), Tendulkar stands tall during the tour of Pakistan in 1989 and Suryavanshi showing Gujarat who the Titan is. THE HINDU ARCHIVES, GETTY IMAGES & R.V. MOORTHY

THE GIST

The IPL's youngest centurion is four years *younger* than the tournament itself. Now, when did anyone ever foresee that? The left-hander from Bihar's Samastipur district went from novelty to sensation in precisely 55 minutes and 35 deliveries

In the immediacy of Suryavanshi's other-worldly (to borrow from Ian Bishop) heroics at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, the creative artists threw away the urge to resist temptation, hence the moniker 'Baby Boss'

Tendulkar was 15 and 16 when he started to make waves beyond schools cricket, when pressures were more internal. But there is no precedent when it comes to Suryavanshi. Fortunately, he has excellent counsel to fall back on

David vs Goliath

There is something about David taking on Goliath that appeals to our most basic of senses. David Suryavanshi was up against a plethora of Goliaths in the Gujarat Titans ranks. Mohammed Siraj. Ishant Sharma. Prasidh Krishna. All capable of touching 140 kmphs comfortably, even Ishant, now 36 and pretty much a white-ball specialist. Rashid Khan, the pixie Afghan genius who has lost his mojo somewhat but is still more than a handful. Karim Janat, his compatriot who can bowl a heavy ball and boasts 42 international T20 wickets. And Washington Sundar, that wily off-spinner who has inexplicably been used by most of his teams very sparingly and yet who keeps rising to the occasion whenever he gets his chances.

No one was holding back, you know. No one told each other: 'Let's be careful not to hurt the kid.' Not before he lay into Siraj in the very first over, certainly not after he smashed Ishant to all parts of the park not long thereafter. Jaipur had seen nothing like it. India had seen nothing like it. Scratch that - the cricket world had seen nothing like it.

From Australia to England and Pakistan to the United States, the layman and the expert jerked out of their stupor to admire the young lad's chutzpah. Just to have the courage to stand steady in his stance for one so young was admirable. To translate his 'I am not afraid' conviction to some of the most breathtaking stroke-play of a tournament lit up by Nicholas Pooran and Suryakumar Yadav and Jos Buttler and Virat Kohli, among others, was a massive statement from a kid who clearly is more at home smashing the mean quicks over and behind square than answering well-intentioned questions from seasoned professionals.

Inevitable comparisons

Comparisons with Sachin Tendulkar were inevitable, because that's what we love the most - to pigeonhole and compartmentalise and anoint the next 'X' or 'Y' instead of allowing people to be themselves. Pakistan's quicks, Imran Khan, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, were initially apprehensive about inflicting serious injury on the baby-faced 16-year-old on his maiden international tour in 1989, until they realised that the potential he possessed to inflict damage on their psyche was immense.

More than two decades prior to that, G.R. Vishwanath had made his First Class debut, for Mysore (as the State was known before it became Karnataka in 1974) against Andhra in Vijayawada in 1967 as a slight 18-year-old. Andhra's new-ball bowlers were N. Venkat Rao - who would later go on to become the vice-president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India - and R.P. Gupta, who both had somewhat of a reputation in local cricket. The West Indian team had visited India the previous year with Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith in town. Because Venkat and Gupta were considered 'ferocious', they came to be known in Andhra circles as Hall and Griffith.

The two Andhra bowlers decided to 'go easy' on the debutant on account of his age and his build, and agreed that they would 'give him' 10 runs before getting him out. Ten became 20, 20 became 40 and suddenly they were no longer benevolent souls sympathetic towards a teenager. When 'Vishy' was eventually dismissed for 230, then the highest by a debutant in Ranji Trophy history, they were at the end of the tether, though they couldn't obliquely stop praising themselves: "Maybe we shouldn't have given him those easy runs early on."

Unusual but not accidental

Suryavanshi didn't enjoy the same freebies, but then again, he didn't need them, did he (not that Vishy did)? His is no accidental success story. Unusual, certainly, but not accidental. He was playing Under-19 cricket for Bihar when 12. He made his first-class debut at 13, and turned out for India Under-19, also last year, when still 13. His exploits were beginning to spark whispers when junior selection committee chairman V.S. Thilak Naidu travelled to Chandigarh in the third quarter of 2023 to witness the Under-19 Vinoo Mankad Trophy. So taken in by the youngster's presence and command at the crease was the former Karnataka wicketkeeper-batter - who himself had represented India at the Under-19 level - that he suggested to his colleagues that Suryavanshi be fast-tracked.

There were the inevitable 'He is too young, he has time on his side' comments but eventually, they all came around, especially once V.V.S. Laxman, the boss at the National Cricket Academy (now the Centre of Excellence) who oversees the developmental squads, was also supremely impressed with what he saw. Suryavanshi was still a work in progress, but when one is identified at 12 as a work in progress, wow!

Entirely at home in the country vs country Under-19 landscape, he smashed a 62-ball 104 on 'Test' debut against Australia in Chennai last September. Exhilarating, free-spirited, enormously charming. Vaibhav Suryavanshi was close to the real deal.

When he went to Rajasthan Royals for ₹1.1 crore at the big auction in Jeddah in November, quite a few eyebrows were raised. The Royals aren't known to be big spenders, and Rahul Dravid, their new head coach, is a very balanced individual not given to excesses of anything. The former India captain might have felt at one stage that 13 was too young to be playing Under-19 internationals, but Suryavanshi's precocious, unmistakable talent has won him over, too.

Uninhibited celebration

Dravid's uninhibited celebration of Suryavanshi's century - he forgot his Achilles' injury, he jumped off the wheelchair he has occupied for nearly two months - will remain one of the images of this IPL, as much as the protagonist himself taking off his helmet, stretching his hands wide and then offering a salute with the bat towards the dugout. It seemed as if Suryavanshi was a little unsure of what to do, now that he had got to the Promised Land. That's not a bad thing, really, at a time when players come prepared for milestone-celebrations - including carrying chits of paper in their pockets.

Suryavanshi's world won't be the same again, let's not make any mistake about that. It's important now that he is surrounded by good people, people who aren't in it for the spotlight and the attendant gains that come from being associated with the successful but people who have his best interests at heart and who understand that this is just the beginning, not a grand end in itself.

Fortunately, Suryavanshi has two of India's greatest champions in his corner, men who continue to carry themselves with dignity and equanimity, who ensured that in their greatest hours, they remained firmly grounded and didn't get carried away. Dravid at RR and Laxman at CoE will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that Suryavanshi's focus doesn't stray. They can't do it all on their own, but from all accounts, Suryavanshi has terrific parental support as well, which is half the battle won.

It will be foolhardy to expect Suryavanshi to keep embracing success all the time. At various stages during his century, one was tempted to scream out, 'Hey, don't try to smack every ball', until the realisation dawned that this is a 14-year-old doing non-14-year-old things. He will entertain, but he will also exasperate and infuriate sometimes. He will throw his wicket away, he will shed a few tears like he did after being dismissed for 34 on IPL debut (surprise, surprise, he hammered his first ball for six) and he will court greater failure than success because that is the nature of the cricketing beast.

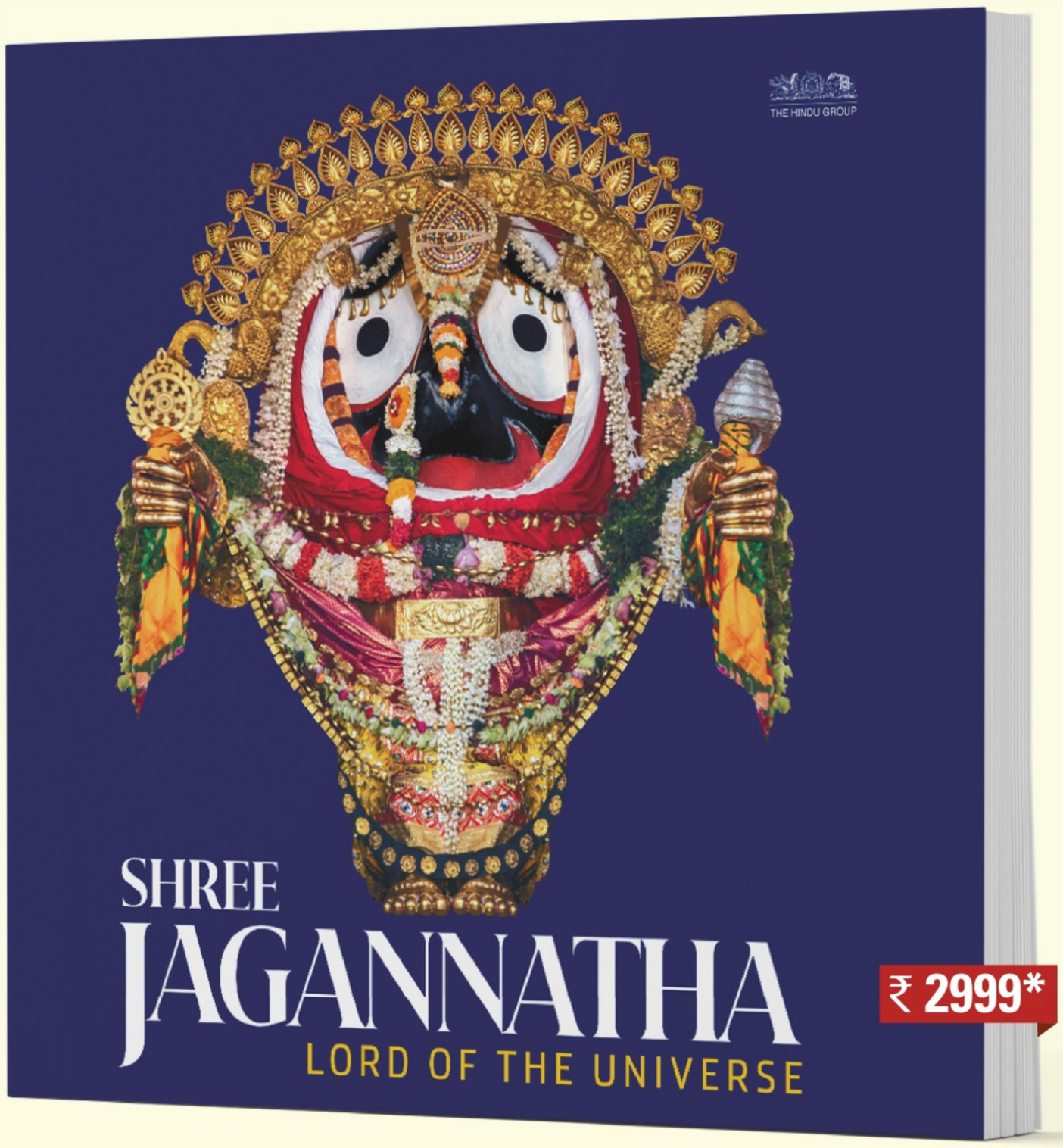
All that is par the course. What isn't, is how he is handled from here, and how he handles himself. Tendulkar was 15 and 16 when he started to make waves beyond schools cricket, but that was more than three and a half decades ago when social media was non-existent, when pressures were more internal, when expectations were tempered (at least at the beginning of the great man's career) and when trash-talk was a no-no. But there is no precedent when it comes to Suryavanshi. 14 years old, 35-ball IPL century. Unprecedented, unlikely to be emulated in a hurry. There are no rules, no predetermined route to tread, no pathway to follow. Suryavanshi will have to learn on the go. To learn from the mistakes of the past. Fortunately, he has excellent counsel to fall back on. And even more fortunately, at 14 - simply can't get over that number - he doesn't have to worry about these things. Just about not eating too many *jalebis*, and retaining his six-hitting mojo. Now, which of them is easier, Suryavanshi?

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

Shree Jagannatha- Lord of the Universe is a picture-rich coffee-table book on the fascinating Lord Jagannatha temple in Puri, Odisha.

The book is a collection of pictures and articles by well-known writers from Odisha on culture and religion. It covers the temple's history, the unique rituals that characterise Jagannatha-worship and, of course, the famous Ratha Yatra.



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State registers pass rate of 99.7 in ICSE, 99.63 in ISE

A total of 29,745 students from 425 schools in Karnataka appeared for class 10 examination, while 2,442 students from 55 schools had given their class 12 exam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka students have achieved a pass percentage of 99.70 in the class 10 Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (ISCE).

The results were announced on Wednesday-.Class 12 students of ISC achieved a pass percentage of 99.63.

A total of 29,745 students from 425 schools in the State had written their class 10 exams, while 2,442 students from 55 schools had given their class 12 examinations.

Girls outshone boys (pass percentage of 99.58) in class 10 with a pass percentage of 99.82.

In ISC, boys outdid girls (99.61) with 99.65 results. A total of 89 students of class 10, and 9 students of class 12 have failed their examinations.

In the special category, 2019 scheduled caste (SC) students, who took their class 10 examinations, achieved 99.41 pass percentage while 479 scheduled tribe (ST) and 13,238 other backward class (OBC) students achieved a pass percentage of 99.37 and 99.56, respectively.

Arnay Gupta, Pragati Girish Athreya, and Sakshi Mathapati. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A total of 97 SC students, 33 ST students and 447 OBC students, who had written their class 12 examinations, achieved pass percentages of 93.81, 100 and 100, respectively.

Medical dreams

Sakshi Mathapati, a student of Notre Dame Academy in Huskur, secured 99.8% in class X. Her goal was to get this exact percentage. Her father Sunil Mathapati is an engineer while her mother Ambika Mathapati is a homemaker.

"I started preparations very early, right after class IX. For some difficult subjects, I took tuitions before the semester opened, so when I started classes it was easy for me to understand. Most of my studies would finish in school itself and I didn't have to go for any extra coaching. I also took a break from extracurricular activities as I am a Bharatnatyam dancer as well, but I didn't completely remove myself from it," Sakshi shared.

She has already begun her coaching for NEET exams and plans to pursue a career in the medical field.

Pragati Girish Athreya, a student of Greenwood High International School also secured 99.8% in class X. Pragati said that she had adopted a flexible approach for her studies.

"Apart from reading and perfecting the textbook information, I would do some extra research online to gather more information or clarification. Along with extensive revisions arranged by the school, I would study throughout the day with breaks in between for food, watching TV, chatting with family and friends and extracurricular activities," she shared.

Pragati comes from a medical background as her father Girish S. V. works as a consultant neonatologist and her mother Jyothi H. R., works as a consultant nephrologist. Pragati has currently chosen PCMB as her combination of subjects for the next two years with an intention to write NEET exams and study MBBS.

Eyeing to fly abroad

Arnay Gupta, from Greenwood High International School secured 99.50% in the science stream in the class XII ISC results. Arnay was brought up in Bengaluru and his parents Munish Gupta and Manu Parmar Gupta both studied in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

He also plans to get into the IT field by studying Computer Science from either University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign or University of Waterloo.

"I never focussed on outcome and scoring high marks was never on my mind. My focus was always on learning and understanding subjects well. I paid attention in class, followed school schedule well, studied well during internal exams as well. I studied by myself with some help from freely available material on internet," Arnay shared.

(With inputs from Matthew William, Reshmi Agrawal, Sophia Mary and Vyas Ponnuri)

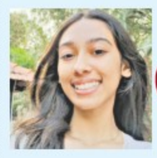
CLASS X, ICSE

97.6%

I focused on the boards as soon as the bridge course ended and my classes started. I prioritised planning early into the year, and preparing time tables to study, on a weekly and monthly basis. I am taking up PCMC with a focus on JEE and CET examinations, to get into the top engineering colleges in Bengaluru.

K. SAI SHRUTHI,
Vivekananda Orchids: The International School

CLASS X, ICSE



98.75%

I took a laid back approach to my studies for the boards. I wanted the process to be calm and without stress. I didn't want to overburden myself with extra work. I plan on pursuing something in maths or finance. I have no set goals or plans as I'm only 17 years old.

SMAYANA MESWANI,
Humanities, Greenwood High International School

98.75%

Throughout the year, I was preparing for entrance exams for college (AILETS, CLAT). For the boards, most of my preparation happened in school itself, just listening and paying attention in class. Close to the boards, I spent 4-5 hours consistently studying. I've been accepted at NLU Delhi, so I'm excited to be pursuing law there.

- SANIDHYA KAPOOR,
Commerce, Greenwood High International School.

IKEA India's first 'Plan and Order Point' opens in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Swedish home furnishings retailer IKEA opened its first Plan and Order Point (PaOP) in India, in Bengaluru, on April 30. Located at the Essensai 067 Experience Centre on Whitefield-Hoskote Road, it will serve consumers in east Bengaluru. The mother store is located at Nagasandra in north Bengaluru.

Spanning 740 sq. m, the new format, according to IKEA, serves as a dedicated customer meeting point, bringing expert home design knowledge closer to customers. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

New format

Spanning 740 sq. m, the new format, according to IKEA, serves as a dedicated customer meeting point, bringing expert home design knowledge closer to customers with personalised consultations, flexible planning support, and seamless installation services. According to the retailer, customers can choose their preferred level of service, whether it's a DIY approach, expert-guided planning, or complete end-to-end design and installation, with access to IKEA's full home furnishing range of over 7,000 products.

Susanne Pulverer, CEO and Chief Sustainability Officer IKEA India, said, "Bengaluru has been a strong growth market for us as the second biggest home furnishings market in India. With the new Plan & Order Point, we are strengthening our local presence and deepening our understanding of how people live at home."

How it works

Customers begin by booking an appointment with specialists to help plan their room or entire home, from layouts to product selections. Once the design is finalised, orders can be placed on-site, with options for home delivery, click and collect, or local partner pick-up. Finally, customers can assemble their products themselves, or opt for an assembly service. Beyond these services, the PaOP will also feature a curated selection of products for immediate purchase for quick home refreshes.

The new format is part of the broader expansion strategy of IKEA. Globally, the company operates 174 IKEA Plan & Order Points across various markets.

RELATED REPORT ON
» E-PAPER PAGE 7

BIS Bengaluru hosts 'Manak Manthan'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bengaluru, conducted a brainstorming session titled Manak Manthan at its Branch Office on Tuesday.

The event discussed Amendment No. 1 to the IS 303:2024 standard, which governs plywood for general purposes.

IS 303:2024 standard

Karem Rajasekhar, Joint Director at BIS, led the event with technical insight and delivered a comprehensive presentation on IS 303:2024 - Amendment 1, thoroughly explaining each clause and the specific changes introduced in the amendment.

Rajasekhar provided clear guidance on the BIS licensing process for manufacturers who do not yet hold a license.

He also explained the procedures for handling license failures and suspensions, offering comprehensive information for both licensed and unlicensed participants.

Three more coaches for Namma Metro's Yellow Line shipped from Titagarh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a key development for Bengaluru Namma Metro's much-awaited Yellow Line, a fresh batch of coaches has been dispatched from Kolkata on Tuesday, according to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

Three coaches from the third train set were successfully shipped from the Titagarh factory in Kolkata, West Bengal, on April 29, while the remaining three will be dispatched by May 2. An additional set of three coaches is slated to arrive in Bengaluru between May 10 and May 15, a release from BMRCL stated.

"With the commissioning of these new trains, BMRCL aims to speed up the rollout of services on the Yellow Line, which will connect R.V. Road to Bommasandra. Once operational, the corridor will help ease traffic congestion and offer seamless travel options to daily commuters, especially those travelling between key industrial and residential hubs," an official said. Although the 19.15-km Yellow Line between R.V. Road and Bommasandra has been structurally ready for several months, its launch was delayed mainly due to the late arrival of driverless metro trains. The first batch of six coaches, manufactured in China, reached the Hebbagodi depot on February 14 this year.

The latest batch of coaches for Yellow Line being despatched to Bengaluru from the Titagarh factory. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Once operational, the Yellow Line is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion and enhance connectivity

In April, Maheshwar Rao, Managing Director of the BMRCL, said that the Yellow Line of Namma Metro will begin limited operations by June 2025, provided all necessary permissions are secured. "Full-scale operations are likely to commence between August and September, once all train sets are received," he said.

The Yellow Line is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion and enhance connectivity to major corporate hubs such as Infosys and Biocon. Featuring 16 fully elevated stations, it will serve as a vital corridor linking the Green Line at R.V. Road with the upcoming Pink Line at Jayadeva Hospital Station.

In 2019, China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) secured a ₹1,578-crore contract to supply 216 metro coaches to BMRCL.

However, the company faced challenges in meeting its commitments, primarily due to its failure to set up a manufacturing facility in India as required by the agreement. This led BMRCL to issue several notices to CRRC and even contemplate encashing a ₹372-crore bank guarantee.

To address the delays, CRRC later partnered with Kolkata-based Titagarh Wagons to manufacture and deliver the remaining coaches. While the collaboration has alleviated some concerns, the project continues to face significant setbacks in its timeline.

New study on Chandrayaan-3's landing site reveals potential presence of primitive lunar mantle materials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a new finding, scientists of the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have revealed that the landing site (Shiv Shakti point) of the Chandrayaan-3 mission is a promising site to access primitive mantle samples, which was otherwise lacking in the existing lunar collections.

The scientists have analysed the concentrations of volatile elements measured at Shiv Shakti station near the South Polar Region, using the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) onboard the Pragyan rover of the mission.

"A comparison of the APXS measured abundances with the other available data revealed anomalous depletion in sodium and potassium, but enrichment in sulfur in the soils at the highland landing site," ISRO said.

This study was published in the journal *Nature Communications Earth and Environment*.

"The study has revealed potential presence of primitive lunar mantle materials at the landing site, which was excavated during formation of the South Pole-Aitken (SPA) basin 4.3 Ga ago and redistributed by subsequent impacts on the SPA basin ejecta," it added.

It further said that the primitive mantle contributed the excess sulfur, which got mixed up with the materials at the landing site. "The low levels of sodium and potassium at the landing site suggests that the KREEP (potassium, rare earth elements, and phosphorus) might not have existed at the place and time of SPA basin formation," it said.

The APXS payload also measured abundances of volatile elements, including sodium, potassium, and sulfur in the highland soils, and reported varied concentrations ranging from 700-2,800 ppm, 300-400 ppm, and 900-1,400 ppm, respectively

PRL scientists made a detailed analysis of the abundances of these volatile elements and found the concentrations of sodium and potassium at the Chandrayaan-3 landing site was found to be much lower compared that found in the soil samples from lunar highlands in earlier missions (Apollo 16 and Luna 20), while the concentration of sulfur was found to be 300-500 ppm higher than in soils from Apollo 16 and Luna 20 missions.

"The anomalous differences in the concentrations of these volatile elements make it important to investigate the probable source that led to their enrichment or depletion at the Chandrayaan-3 landing site," ISRO said.

These findings make the Chandrayaan-3 landing site a promising place for future missions to collect samples, particularly to study the early evolution of the moon.

Operation Hawk 2025: CBI dismantles child sexual exploitation networks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), on the basis of inputs received from Operation Hawk, launched by the US, has taken swift action to successfully dismantle the cybercrime networks involving online child sexual exploitation with international linkages.

International Operations Division of CBI registered a case against Sheik Muizz Ahmed under Section 506 of Indian Penal Code, Section 66D of Information Technology Act, 2000, and Section 12 read with Section 11 of POCSO Act, 2012.

Arrest of Sheikh Muizz Ahmed

"During March 2024, accused Sheikh Muizz Ahmed, a resident of Mangaluru, operated through social media platform 'Discord' under the username "heisenberg7343" and engaged in online chats with a minor girl from the USA. The accused induced the minor girl to engage in sexual chats with him and he further enticed her to share her obscene images, videos with him over the said platform," said a release.

The accused also allegedly intimidated the minor victim to engage in obscene sexual activities online.

Following the case, the CBI conducted extensive searches at various locations in Mumbai and Mangaluru linked to the accused, allegedly leading to the recovery of electronic devices including mobile phone and laptop which contained Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), obtained by the accused from the minor girl victim by way of inducement. Accused Shiekh Muizz Ahmed was arrested by CBI and sent to judicial custody.

Mukul Saini booked

International Operations Division of the CBI registered another case against Mukul Saini under Section 506 of Indian Penal Code as well as Section 67 of Information Technology Act, 2000 and Section 12 read with Sections 11 and 15 of POCSO Act, 2012 and launched an investigation.

During the period 2023-2024, accused Mukul Saini, a resident of Delhi, operated through social media platforms 'Discord' and 'Arisu' and chatted online with a minor girl from the US.

"During chats, the accused induced the minor girl to engage in sexualized chats with him and share her obscene images/videos with him over the said platform. Accused also intimidated the minor victim to continue sharing her obscene images, videos, otherwise he will make her obscene images, videos viral on the internet. Following the registration of the case, the CBI conducted extensive searches at various locations in Delhi linked to the accused, leading to the recovery of electronic devices, mobile phones, and hard disks containing incriminating digital evidence relating to the case," the release said.

S8 tension: cosmologists cannot agree on how clumpy universe is

Cosmologists have been mapping the spread of the universe powered by dark matter and dark energy that make up most of the cosmos as we see it; this matter coalesced with galaxies in the period after the Big Bang to form the clumpy distortions and structures discovered by scientists

Prakash Chandra

The Subaru Telescope enclosure on Mauna Kea lit up by the moon's glow. New estimates of S8 based on data collected by the telescope's Hyper Suprime-Cam indicate the tension has to do with dark matter and dark energy. NATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY OF JAPAN

Cosmology is in for exciting times, going by the latest research that suggests the key to revealing the fundamental nature of the universe lies in finding out how clumpy it is.

Accepted theory has it that after the universe was explosively born in a 'Big Bang' in the void some 13.8 billion years ago, it expanded, engendering galaxies, star clusters, solar systems, and planets.

When scientists looked at the cosmic microwave background (CMB) – the radiation left over from the Big Bang itself – they saw an absolutely smooth glow across the sky. The early universe must have been remarkably uniform, they concluded, with only small variations in density (of about one part in 100,000 when it was 380,000 years old).

Primordial fluctuations

How did matter in the universe get to be so lumpy today after starting out so evenly? The "lumps" we see in the universe arose from different chunks of matter like galaxies and dark matter – a hypothetical, invisible form of matter that doesn't interact with light or electromagnetic radiation and which makes up a significant portion of the universe – being pulled together by gravitational forces.

Over the years, cosmologists have tried to map the overall spread of matter through the early universe. In the standard cosmological model, called the Lambda Cold Dark Matter (ΛCDM) model, dark matter and dark energy – the mysterious force that drives the expansion of the universe – comprise about 95% of the universe. The interplay between these components influences how the primordial fluctuations evolved into the large-scale structures that we observe today.

Cosmologists use the term Sigma 8, or S8, to quantify the matter around us. This matter is made up of baryonic particles, such as protons and neutrons, that bunch up in different regions of space.

The value of S8 is calculated by studying various regions of the universe. Each region is defined by an astronomical length scale of approximately 26 million light-years.

Within these regions, cosmologists count the number of galaxies and other cosmic structures, such as galactic clusters and filaments, to assess the distribution of matter.

A higher value for S8 indicates more clustering with a greater amount of matter clumped together, while a lower value indicates a more uniform distribution of matter.

A problem arose when cosmologists used different ways to measure the value of S8 and came up with different estimates. This lack of agreement has come to be called the "S8 tension" in astrophysics.

Cosmic-shear surveys

Astronomers have conducted galaxy surveys to determine the value of S8. One method involves measuring the distortion in the shape of galaxies as seen from the earth: an effect known as cosmic shear. These distortions occur when starlight passes through a galactic cluster and is bent and amplified by gravitational forces, much like a magnifying glass does. Astronomers use this gravitational lensing to study indistinct epochs in the evolution of the universe. Cosmic-shear surveys help to map the diffusion of matter, including dark matter, in the universe so cosmologists can deduce the amplitude of matter fluctuations as quantified by S8.

The results of the latest such survey were recently published in the journal *Physics* by an international team of researchers from the University of Tokyo. They used the Hyper Suprime-Cam (HSC) – a camera installed on the Subaru Telescope in Hawaii – to collect data and came up with a value of 0.747 for S8, which tallies with the values found by previous surveys.

"The Subaru HSC survey is one of the deepest wide area surveys of the sky," Surhud S. More, a co-author of the study and professor of astrophysics at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics in Pune, wrote in an email. He added that the researchers probed matter's distribution using the gravitational lensing effect down to small scales.

"We were able to show that any movement of ordinary matter, such as gas within the large-scale structure of the universe, will not be sufficient to explain the smaller value of the clumpiness which had been found in our previous study."

In other words, the discrepancy in S8 has to do with the dark matter and dark energy that pervades the cosmos. While this reaffirms that all is well with the ΛCDM model, it does not dispel the S8 tension itself: studies like this were based on gravitational lensing to determine the value of S8 to be 0.747, which does not agree with the higher value predicted by data from the CMB.

Astronomers have conducted galaxy surveys to determine the value of S8. One method involves measuring the distortion in the shape of galaxies: an effect known as cosmic shear. These distortions occur when starlight passes through a galactic cluster and is bent by gravity

Relic radiation

Cosmologists consider the CMB to be a better tool to look back in space and time. They have known for a long time that the surge of primordial matter in the CMB holds clues to the universe's origins in the form of "ripples" generated by the expanding universe. These ripples resulted in lumps and bumps – future star clusters and galaxies – in the otherwise uniform fabric of space.

These telltale galactic signatures were detected in 1992 by NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer satellite.

But with the S8 tension persisting, the ΛCDM model looks to be in need of modification – unless some as yet undiscovered systematics could affect such a conclusion.

As Prof. More said, "One of the main difficulties in using deep surveys such as Subaru HSC is our lack of understanding of how fast the galaxies in these surveys are actually receding from us, quantified by the redshift [increase in wavelength] of certain lines in their spectrum. As the millions of galaxies used in these analyses are faint, one cannot analyse the spectrum of light of these galaxies to determine this redshift. This constitutes one of the major uncertainties that still remains unresolved before we start entirely doubting the standard theory of cosmology."

A new view

Last year, data from the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument in Arizona in the US suggested that the push of dark energy – represented by the cosmological constant lambda in the ΛCDM model – is weakening and that the universe may actually be decelerating over time.

The possibility of dark energy getting weaker means that the pace of expansion of the universe will eventually slow down and may, at some point, even turn negative. In that case, it is not inconceivable that the universe will collapse in on itself in a "big crunch."

In any case, the task of updating the ΛCDM model will become easier when the Rubin Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) begins operating later this year.

The LSST will launch from the Vera C. Rubin Observatory being built in northern Chile, using its camera – the largest ever built – to peer back in space and time like never before.

Who knows what answers this unparalleled wide-field astronomical survey of the universe, wider and deeper than all previous surveys combined, will provide to questions we can't even imagine now about the mysteries of the universe?

(Prakash Chandra is a science writer. prakashisat@gmail.com)

Chinese astronauts (from left) Wang Haoze, Cai Xuzhe, and Song Lingdong attend a ceremony to see-off the Shenzhou-19 mission on October 30, 2024. AP

Three Chinese astronauts return after six months on space station

Agence France Presse

Three Chinese astronauts returned to earth on April 30 after six months on the country's space station, state media footage showed, as Beijing advances towards its aim to become a major celestial power.

China has ploughed billions into its space programme in recent years in an effort to achieve what President Xi Jinping describes as the country's "space dream."

The world's second-largest economy has bold plans to send a crewed mission to the moon by the end of the decade and eventually build a base on the lunar surface.

Its latest launch last week ferried a trio of astronauts to the Tiangong space station, heralding the start of the Shenzhou-20 mission.

They have taken over from Shenzhou-19 crew Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong, and Wang Haoze, whose landing capsule touched down in the northern Inner Mongolia region on Wednesday.

The Shenzhou-19 crew have been working in space since October 2024, during which time they carried out experiments and set a new record for the longest-ever spacewalk

Shortly after the landing, the Xinhua state news agency said the mission was a "complete success," adding that the trio was in "good health."

The Shenzhou-19 crew had worked on the space station since October 2024, where they carried out experiments and set a new record for the longest-ever spacewalk.

They were initially scheduled to return on Tuesday, but the mission was postponed due to bad weather at the Dongfeng landing site, according to Chinese authorities.

Wang, 35, was China's only woman spaceflight engineer at the time of the launch, according to the Chinese Manned Space Agency.

Commander Cai, a 48-year-old former air force pilot, previously served aboard Tiangong as part of the Shenzhou-14 mission in 2022. Song, a 34-year-old onetime air force pilot, completed the group of spacefarers.

Last week, China saw off the Shenzhou-20 team in a feast of pomp and pageantry at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Base in the barren desert of northwestern Gansu province.

A military band and crowds of flag-waving well-wishers bade farewell to the crew before they blasted off on a Long March-2F rocket.

State media reported that they assumed control of the space station after a handover ceremony with its former occupants on Sunday.

The all-male Shenzhou-20 crew is headed by Chen Dong, 46, a former fighter pilot and veteran space explorer who in 2022 became the first Chinese astronaut to clock up more than 200 cumulative days in orbit.

The other two crew members – 40-year-old former air force pilot Chen Zhongrui, and 35-year-old former space technology engineer Wang Jie – are on their first space flight.

During their six-month stint, the crew will carry out experiments in physics and life sciences and install protective equipment against space debris.

For the first time, they will also bring aboard planarians, aquatic flatworms known for their regenerative abilities.

China's space programme is the third to put humans in orbit and has also landed robotic rovers on Mars and the moon.

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Too much hair? Feel free to tear it out with these puzzles

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Pick a positive integer. If it's odd, multiply by 3 and add 1 (so 5 becomes 16). If it's even, divide by 2 (so 6 becomes 3). Repeat the process with the number you have. The Collatz conjecture is that if you repeat this process enough, you'll eventually reach X. What's the value of X?

QUESTION 2

When Leonhard Euler solved the problem called the Seven Bridges of Y in 1736, he founded modern graph theory. The idea is to traverse Y, a city, such that one would cross each of its seven bridges only once. Name Y.

QUESTION 3

What's the following problem called? Say you're on a game show. The host asks you to pick one of three boxes to open. One box has jewels, the other two have nothing. You pick box 1. But instead of opening it, the host opens box 3 and shows you it's empty. Now, do you pick box 2 or stay with box 1?

QUESTION 4

Say you have a _____ _____: a square grid of numbers such that every row and every column sums up to the same value. One unsolved problem asks whether it's possible to make a 3x3 _____ _____ composed of nine distinct perfect square numbers (e.g. 9, 16, 25, etc.). Fill in the blanks (both pairs have the same words).

QUESTION 5

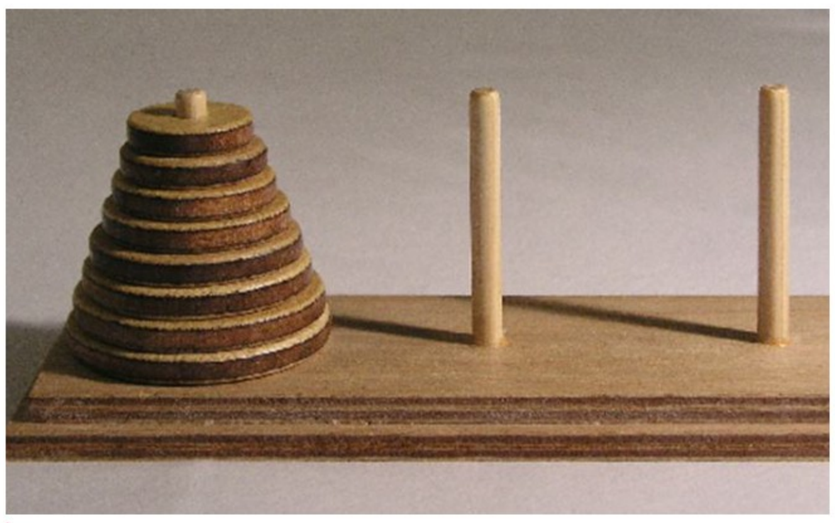
If you need to place P number of queens on an 8x8 chessboard such that no queen is a direct threat to another, then there are Q number of ways to do it. If Q = 724, then P = 10. If Q = 92, then P = ?

Answers to April 29 quiz:

1. Mountain featuring world's largest vertical drop – **Ans: Mount Thor**
2. Mountain called the 'king' by the Shina people – **Ans: Nanga Parbat**
3. Place in Greece with towering columns of rock – **Ans: Meteora**
4. Area in Africa that might be cradle of humankind – **Ans: Danakil Depression**
5. Places with coldest recorded air temperature – **Ans: Poles of cold**

Visual: **Emden**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | Joe V.R. | Ashutosh Gupta



Visual: Name the game whose starting setup is shown here. The point is to move the entire stack of disks to another pole, one at a time, but at no point allowing a larger disk to sit atop a smaller one. EVANHERK (CC BY-SA

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for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

THURSDAY
May 1, 2025

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Poura - Karmika Day

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August presence:
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All are Welcome

City school booked for forging fire safety NOC to get affiliation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police have registered a case against a city-based private school for allegedly forging the fire safety NOC to avail CBSE affiliation.

The accused, identified as Gurappa Naidu, chairman of the BGS Bloomfield School in Thyagaraja Nagar, and its trustee, Sunitha Naidu, had allegedly submitted forged documents to misguide the High Court, which was revealed during the verification.

Based on a complaint filed by Sudha Katwa, a city-based advocate, the Vidhana Souudha police have charged the accused under several sections including forgery.

The forgery to light when Ms. Katwa filed a writ petition against the school for allegedly constructing a building on the stormwater drain. The accused filed objections to the petition along with a set of documents, including the NOC on fire safety measures from the fire and emergency services.

Suspecting the credibility of the certificate, which was obtained from the Anjinapura office instead of the jurisdictional Chamarajapet office, Ms. Katwa sought the details of the certificate through RTI and found that no such NOC was issued. The matter was brought to the notice of the court before filing a complaint with the police.

The accused had even tampered with the building sanction plan which was taken for the construction of the hostel but they had built ground plus four storeyed building, she alleged, adding that the accused did not have occupancy certificate and were running the school illegally.

Case registered against builder for cheating

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kodigehalli police on Sunday registered a cheating case against a city-based builder for allegedly cheating as many as 34 families and making away with lakhs of rupees from them.

One of the victims, who filed a complaint, said she had leased the flat situated at a residential complex in Kodigehalli from the builder identified as A.K. Raghu in November 2023 for ₹26 lakh.

The residents were living there until January 2024 when a group of people came claiming ownership of the flats and asked the occupants to vacate. Verification revealed that Raghu had sold them the flats and some of them had taken bank loans.

Even the bank officials started visiting the flats with a notice to vacate citing non payment of EMIs.

Woman's body with injury marks found

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The body of a woman aged around 30 years was found with multiple injury marks in Telecom Layout of Chikkajala on Wednesday.

The Chikkajala police said that the deceased is suspected to be of African origin. They said that the victim might have been murdered, and the body dumped at an isolated place. The police have registered a case of suspicious death.

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd
CIN: L65110TN1921PLC001908
Registered office: 57, V. E. Road, Thoothukudi – 628 002
Phone: 0461-2321932, 2321929 (E)
Website: www.tmb.in | Email: shareholders@tmbank.in

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Transfer of Unpaid / Unclaimed dividend and Equity shares to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") read with Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules"), the Bank is required to transfer the shares, in respect of which the dividend remains unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven consecutive years to the IEPF Account established by the Central Government.

A list of such shareholders, who have not encashed the dividend declared for the financial year 2017-18 (2nd Interim) and all the subsequent dividends declared and paid by the Bank and whose shares are therefore liable for transfer to the IEPF Authority, is displayed on the website of the Bank **https://www.tmb.in/pages/Investor-Education-and-protection-fund.**

The Bank had sent individual communication to the concerned shareholders whose unpaid / unclaimed dividend and shares thereon are liable to be transferred to IEPF Account as per the said Rules for taking appropriate action and submitting requisite documents to claim the dividend and shares before the same is transferred to IEPF Account. Shareholders are requested to forward the requisite documents to the Registrar and Transfer Agent (RTA) of our bank, **M/s. MUFG Intime India Private Limited (Formerly Link Intime India Private Limited), Surya 35, Mayflower Avenue, Behind Senthil Nagar, Sowripalayam Road, Coimbatore – 641 028** to claim the dividend and shares thereon. In case the Bank/RTA does not receive any communication from the concerned shareholder on or before **30.07.2025,** the Bank would be transferring the said shares to IEPF Account without further notice in accordance with the requirement of said Rules.

In this connection, please note the following:

1) **In case the shareholder hold shares in physical form:** Duplicate share certificate(s) will be issued and transferred to IEPF. The original share certificate(s) registered in the name of the shareholder will stand automatically cancelled and be deemed non-negotiable.
2) **In case the shareholder hold shares in electronic form:** The demat account of the shareholder will be debited for the shares liable for transfer to the IEPF.

We request you to claim the dividends, if any, remaining unclaimed / unpaid by you by making an application immediately to the RTA of our bank.

In the event of a valid claim not received on or before **30.07.2025,** the Bank shall, with a view to comply with the said Act and Rules, transfer the dividend and the shares to the IEPF Authority without any further notice to the shareholders and no liability shall lie against the Bank in respect of the shares so transferred.

The shareholders may note that upon transfer of the shares to IEPF Authority, including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, the same can be claimed only from the IEPF Authority by making a separate application in the MCA website **(www.mca.gov.in)** in Form IEPF-5 as prescribed under the Rules.

For any information / clarifications on this matter, concerned shareholders may contact our RTA M/s. MUFG Intime India Private Limited (Formerly Link Intime India Private Limited), Surya 35, Mayflower Avenue, Behind Senthil Nagar, Sowripalayam Road, Coimbatore – 641028, Tel No.: 2314792, 4958995, 2539835, 2539836. e-mail: coimbatore@in.mpms.mufg.com

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of people killed in overnight Israeli strikes in Gaza

12 The Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza was the scene of deadly overnight attacks. Gaza's Health Ministry says over 52,000 people have died in the conflict since October 7. Lebanon's army chief urged a visiting U.S. military delegation to press Israel to withdraw from contested areas. PTI

Number of Pakistanis who left India after visa cancellations

786 The Attari-Wagah border witnessed the exit of Pakistani nationals, including 55 diplomats, following India's visa cancellation order. In return, 1,465 Indians crossed over from Pakistan. Most Pakistani nationals were ordered to leave by April 29. PTI

People killed in sectarian violence near Damascus

13 The violence, centred in Sahnaya and Jaramana, poses a major challenge to the Islamist-led regime that ousted Bashar al-Assad in December. Tensions flared after a blasphemous audio recording circulated in Jaramana, a Druze-Christian suburb, further fuelling sectarian unrest. AFP

Electric vehicles added for garbage collection in Indore

100 The vehicles were inaugurated at an event in Rajwada, attended by Urban Development Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya. "We have resolved to make Indore a green city. These vehicles will reduce air pollution and improve public health," said Mr. Vijayvargiya. PTI

Share by which power tariff was increased in Jharkhand

6.34 In per cent. The Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission raised the power tariff in the State by 6.34%. Under the new rates, domestic consumers in rural areas will pay ₹6.7 per unit, up from ₹6.30. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Is natural hydrogen the fuel of the future?

How does hydrogen occur naturally in the environment? Why was it considered unviable to mine or harvest natural hydrogen? Can natural hydrogen as a fuel meet growing global energy demands? Why is it still an untapped industry? Does India have natural hydrogen reserves?

EXPLAINER

Kalyan Mangalapalli

The story so far:

Hydrogen is seen as the fuel of the future – one that would decarbonise world economy and stop global warming. If harvested in a sustainable manner, natural hydrogen may provide a clean and potentially low-cost fuel to satisfy the world's increasing energy needs with a considerable reduction in carbon emissions as well. And it's most likely abundant in India, too.

How is natural hydrogen extracted?

Right now, hydrogen is manufactured mostly from natural gas through an energy-intensive and polluting process. Green hydrogen made with renewable electricity, on the other hand, is still prohibitively expensive and would require vast amounts of wind and solar power to work out at scale.

Natural hydrogen occurs as a free gas in geology, produced by processes such as serpentinisation (the interaction of water and iron-containing rocks), radiolysis of water by radioactive rocks, and from organic matter at depth.

What is the history of its extraction?

In the summer of 1987, drillers arrived at Mamadou's village of Bourakébougou, Mali, to bore for water. After drilling 108m at one site, with no water to be found, one of the crew lit a cigarette – and a jet of flame shot into his face. The flame turned into a huge fire that shone crystal blue during the daytime with no sign of smoke around it. At night, it shone a glowing gold that lit its surroundings. It took weeks for the crew to extinguish the blaze and cap the well.

This unexpected event led the villagers to avoid the site until 2007 when Aliou Diallo, a successful Malian businessperson, politician, and chairperson of Petroma, an oil and gas firm, purchased the rights to prospect in the area around Bourakébougou. In 2012, he hired Chapman Petroleum to figure out what was emanating from the borehole. Protected from the 50°C sun in a mobile laboratory, a team of engineers found that the gas was 98% hydrogen. Hydrogen is rarely recovered in oil operations and was not thought to exist in large reserves within the earth's crust, until then.

While the presence of naturally occurring hydrogen has been known for decades, with the discovery of its presence in gas seeps, volcanic outgassing, and even mine workings being well documented decades ago, for many years, it was viewed as a geological curiosity. Majority of the scientific opinion at the time proposed that hydrogen's small size and extreme reactivity would hinder the formation of substantial underground deposits.

Now, geological environments favourable to natural hydrogen generation and accumulation are being recognised worldwide. Active mountain ranges with tectonic activity, such as the Pyrenees, Alps, and Himalayas, are also being considered as areas for geological hydrogen production. The fact that helium co-exists with hydrogen in a few reserves points towards some geological processes, such as radiolysis, playing a role in its generation.

The presence of hydrogen in coal mines points towards generation from underlying organic matter. What was previously a specialist field of geological study has therefore become a growing field with enormous implications for the future of energy.

Scouting for more: A 2,500 cubic-metre tank containing liquid hydrogen at Kobe Port Island plant in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. AFP

What about current reserves?

Although the total size of worldwide natural hydrogen reserves is still poorly known because of a lack of concentrated exploration, recent discoveries and current research indicate considerable potential. In contrast to conventional hydrocarbon exploration, dedicated frameworks for natural hydrogen exploration are still evolving.

In the Indian context, natural hydrogen potential is mostly untapped but found to be promising because of the existence of favourable geological structures like hard rock formations of diverse ultramafic/mafic and basaltic assemblages, Andaman and Himalayan ophiolite complexes, greenstone volcanic-sedimentary sequences in cratons (Dharwar, Singhbhum), sedimentary basis (for example, in Vindhyan, Cuddapah, Gondwana and Chhattisgarh), basement rocks with fractures, and areas where active hydrothermal systems as represented by hot springs exist.

Recent finds elsewhere in the world indicate the scale of these resources. Hundreds of hydrogen seeps have been catalogued globally in various countries, including Australia (Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island), the United States (Kansas, Nebraska), Spain, France, Albania, Colombia, South Korea, and Canada. There could be sufficient natural hydrogen to supply the growing world demand for thousands of years, based on a model run by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) that was unveiled in October 2022 at a Geological Society of America meeting.

Close on the heels of the USGS model, scientists, venturing into abandoned mines in France's Lorraine region chanced upon naturally occurring hydrogen in May 2023. Further excavation in March 2025 in the adjacent Moselle region yielded more reserves. Together, the deposits are estimated to be about 92 million tonnes –worth about $92 billion and about half of the current global hydrogen production.

While it's difficult to project with certainty just how much hydrogen is available in geologic stores, the best estimate is on the order of tens of trillions of metric tonnes. If even just 2% of these reserves are commercially exploitable, they would provide about twice as much energy as all the earth's provable natural gas reserves –enough to meet projected hydrogen demand (500 million tonnes per year) for around two hundred years. However, experts note that it is still unclear how much of that potential can be tapped economically, especially if deposits are too scattered.

How has industry reacted?

The promise of so much renewable fuel sitting undiscovered beneath the surface has sparked a veritable gold rush. By the end of 2023, 40 companies, including start-ups, were searching for deposits of natural hydrogen around the world, up from just 10 in 2020, according to research firm Rystad Energy.

They're hunting for natural hydrogen in countries such as Australia, the U.S., Spain, France, Albania, Colombia, South Korea and Canada. Producers claim they can extract the fuel for about $1/kg, or even less – much lower than the production cost for green or even natural gas-based hydrogen.

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists have formed its first natural hydrogen committee, and USGS began its first effort to identify promising hydrogen production zones in the United States.

In the U.S., a start-up called Koloma raised $245 million of venture funding last year to search for and extract geologic hydrogen, attracting investors including Amazon's climate fund and Bill Gates' Breakthrough Energy Ventures, which is also investing in other natural hydrogen companies, such as Mantle 8 in Europe. Even conventional energy and mining companies are in on the rush – both BP and Rio Tinto recently invested in U.K.-based start-up Snowfox Discovery.

Kalyan Mangalapalli is an expert in Energy and Emerging Technologies and serves as a member of the International Advisory Board of the Indian Institute of Petroleum Energy, Visakhapatnam. This is the first of a two part series on naturally occurring hydrogen reserves.

THE GIST

- Natural hydrogen occurs as a free gas in geology, produced by processes such as serpentinisation (the interaction of water and iron-containing rocks), radiolysis of water by radioactive rocks, and from organic matter at depth.
- There could be sufficient natural hydrogen to supply the growing world demand for thousands of years, based on a model run by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) that was unveiled in October 2022.
- The American Association of Petroleum Geologists have formed its first natural hydrogen committee.

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RISE	05:59	SET 18:35
RISE	09:04	SET 22:34
FRIDAY, MAY. 02		
RISE	05:59	SET 18:35
RISE	10:07	SET 23:33
SATURDAY, MAY. 03		
RISE	05:58	SET 18:35
RISE	11:09	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	25
Mysuru	35	19
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds at few places.

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THE HINDU
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Services of 12,692 pourakarmikas set to be regularised from today

Considering the 7th Pay Commission, on an average, pourakarmikas should get around ₹35,000, a BBMP officer says

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Nagalakshmi, 38, has been working as a pourakarmika, sweeping the city's streets for nearly 20 years now. She started under the contractors and was paid a meagre sum of ₹1,000 a month for the back-breaking work. She is one of the 12,692 pourakarmikas whose services will be regularised by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Thursday.

"Working under the contractors was a very bad phase. Not only was the pay less, but there was also harassment we had to brave. We found relief in 2016 when we were brought under the Direct Payment System (DPS). We presently get around ₹18,000 take-home salary apart from several other benefits. Now, with our services being regularised, our salaries are expected to almost double. Naturally, we are overjoyed and we feel our work is finally being recognised," she said.

Depending on seniority and pay scale, pourakarmikas will get salaries on a par with other D Group employees of the civic body. Considering the 7th Pay Commission, on an average, they are expected to get around ₹35,000, a senior BBMP officer said.

Depending on seniority and pay scale, pourakarmikas will get salaries on a par with other 'D' Group employees of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. K. MURALI KUMAR

Currently, there are 15,400 pourakarmikas being paid through DPS. Of them, only 12,692 are being regularised, keeping 2,708 still under DPS. BBMP has adopted a criteria that the services of those who have worked for at least two years under DPS and are below the age of 55 years will be regularised. Most of those left out are above 55 years of age, sources said.

"Regularising the services of these pourakarmikas has been our long-standing demand, and we also urge that the services of other pourakarmikas who have been working on DPS mode in other corporations across the State should also be regularised," said Maitreyi Krishnan of BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha.

Pourakarmikas in city

Zone	Those being regularised
East	2,341
West	2,564
South	3,012
Bommanahalli	1,019
R.R. Nagar	1,118
Mahadevapura	1,369
Dasarahalli	468
Yelahanka	801
Total	12,692

- Salary pourakarmikas are drawing under DPS: ₹19,590 (minimum wage) + ₹2,000 hardship allowance
- Pourakarmikas under the direct payment system now: 15,400
- Those who will continue under the direct payment system: 2,708
- **Payment pourakarmikas were getting while under contractors (before 2016):** BBMP had prescribed minimum wages which varied between ₹4,000 and ₹7,000 over the years. But contractors used to give far less than the minimum wages
- **Salary pourakarmikas will get after regularisation on May 1, 2025:** Depending on seniority and pay scale equal to 'D' Group employees of BBMP – on an average ₹35,000

Long struggle

This is a result of a long fight that started in 2013, said Clifton D'Rosario of BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha.

"Following recommendations of the Chandrashekhar Committee Report formed in 2013 and our struggle demanding its implementation in full, the then Congress government made a Cabinet decision to regularise services of all pourakarmikas in 2016. That decision is being partly implemented now," he said.

Both sweepers and waste collectors were working under contractors till 2016, amidst allegations of double billing and misappropriation of funds. BBMP introduced biometric authentication of all pourakarmikas, which brought down the numbers from the claim of 32,000 to around 18,000. Contrary to the Cabinet decision, these sweepers were brought under a DPS and given minimum wages, a hardship allowance, and other facilities like EPF, gratuity and health insurance.

"As we continued the struggle for regularisation of their services, and to bring waste collectors also on the rolls, the BJP government led by Basavaraj Bommai formed a committee under (IAS officer) Rakesh Singh to formulate modalities to regularise their services. Even as that committee did not submit its report, the government announced regularising services of only 4000 odd workers, which was vehemently opposed. Siddaramaiah, who was leader of Opposition, assured us that if Congress came to power, it would regularise the services of all pourakarmikas. So after Congress returned to power we restarted our struggle to reach some success now," Mr. D'Rosario recounted.

Maheshwar Rao takes charge

BBMP's new Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao with the civic body's new Administrator Tushar Giri Nath in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Terming the completion of big-ticket projects under Brand Bengaluru as one of his priorities, M. Maheshwar Rao, a 1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, officially assumed office as the Chief Commissioner of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Wednesday.

He succeeds Tushar Giri Nath, who served in the post for nearly three years and will now continue to play a pivotal role in the civic body's transition as its Administrator, while also serving as the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) to the Government in the Urban Development Department (UDD).

Addressing the media after taking charge, Mr. Rao emphasised his commitment to completing ongoing infrastructure projects launched under his predecessor. "Mr. Giri Nath has initiated many ambitious projects under the Brand Bengaluru. My primary objective is to ensure their timely completion," he stated.

Mr. Rao steps into the position at a crucial time when the civic administration is undergoing a significant restructuring. The Government of Karnataka has initiated the process of decentralising the BBMP by forming multiple municipal corporations to enhance governance and service delivery in the rapidly growing metropolis. This transition will be overseen by Mr. Giri Nath, ensuring administrative continuity and support during the transition period.

Mr. Rao had previously served in the BBMP as Chief Commissioner in 2018 during the previous assembly elections. He was with the Labour Department. He served as Commissioner for Industrial Development and Director of Industries and Commerce. He also served as Deputy Commissioner of Mandya, Mangaluru, Belagavi and Hassan districts.

In addition to his role in BBMP, Mr. Rao continues to serve as the Managing Director of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). Commenting on this, Mr. Giri Nath expressed confidence that Mr. Rao's dual roles would help overcome many challenges caused by the lack of coordination between BBMP and BMRCL.

Mr. Rao also acknowledged the persistent issue of urban flooding, stating that BBMP had already identified several flood-prone areas. "The BBMP has addressed the problems in many of these areas, but there are still locations where work is pending. I will prioritise these in the coming days," he added.

Ashtavadhana performance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Akhila Bharatiya Sahitya Parishad will present an Ashtavadhana performance by scholar Ganesha Bhatta Koppalathota on Saturday at MES College auditorium in Vidyaranyapura from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Ashtavadhana is a performance art that showcases multitasking abilities, memory, and intellect.

GTTCs in State achieve 100% student placement

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

With more emphasis on skills, the Government Tool Room & Training Centres (GTTCs) have achieved 100% placement in the year 2024-25.

There are 33 GTTCs across Karnataka, most of which are in taluk centers. A large number of students from rural areas enrol in these centres. "All 3,000 students trained in these centers in 2024-25 have been successful in getting jobs in various industries," Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development, told *The Hindu*.

Seats enhanced

In this context, to facilitate employment for more students, the government of Karnataka has enhanced the intake in GTTCs from 3,000 to 5,000 for the academic year 2025-26. And, in addition to the existing six courses, steps have been taken to introduce three additional courses. Three more GTTCs are also expected to be started soon.

"GTTC is teaching three-year diploma and short-term courses in which 60% is hands-on training while 40% is theory. In addition, there is a one-year internship with industry. This helps students acquire skills as per the requirements of industries. There is a huge demand in the manufacturing sector," explained Dr. Patil.

"In addition, 'Training while Learning' module has also been implemented. Soft skill training is provided in multinational companies, including Microsoft, when the students are in their final semester," he stated.

How other institutions fare in comparison

He pointed out this achievement is significant when there are more than 200 engineering colleges across Karnataka with a placement rate of less than 20%. There are 271 ITI colleges where the placement rate varies from 30% to 40%. Karnataka has more than 100 polytechnic colleges where the placement rate is less than 20%.

The main reason for not getting placement is that the candidates do not have the skills required by the industry, he said.

On enhancing skill development, the Minister said the State Government has decided to provide Yuva Nidhi beneficiaries with skill development along with the unemployment allowance.

"In this regard, we have established multi-skill development centers. Steps have been taken to start them in Kalaburagi, Koppal, Mysuru in the first phase," the Minister said. Job fairs organised by the government had managed to draw thousands.

The Minister pointed out that demand for employment from Germany, Japan, Slovakia, Italy and other countries is high, mainly for those who have received nursing training. "In this context, it has been announced in the budget to start language labs to teach German and Japanese language in selected nursing colleges. In addition, it has been decided to organise an overseas job fair in Bengaluru related to nursing and allied health sciences course," he said.

Company to handle waste management independently after civic body is split

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

After the formation of multiple corporations and establishment of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to coordinate among them, the responsibility for door-to-door waste collection and the integrated solid waste management system in Bengaluru will be handled directly by the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML).

The designated government company will oversee waste management across all corporations, much like how water and sewerage services are managed city-wide by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

Currently, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is in a transition phase. Until new boundaries for the corporations are officially finalised, no fresh tenders for waste management services will be floated, sources said. Meetings with stakeholders and civic administrators are under way to deliberate on the number of corporations to be created. Authorities are considering dividing BBMP into anywhere between three and five corporations to streamline governance.

BSWML will oversee waste management operations across all corporations. FILE PHOTO

In the meantime, sections of civil society are preparing to challenge the constitutional validity of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, in court, raising questions about the broader implications of the restructuring and formation of GBA.

A senior BBMP official told *The Hindu* that the BSWML will independently handle critical functions such as door-to-door waste collection, transportation, and processing by engaging contractors and companies. Payments to these service providers will be directly handled by BSWML. However, the new corporations will remain responsible for payment of salaries to pourakarmikas who are employed under the direct payment system.

Recently, BBMP introduced a user fee for waste collection, which is now bundled with property tax. After the corporations are established, this system will stay, with user fee collection being transferred to a dedicated escrow account managed by BSWML. Presently, the estimated revenue from user fees is around ₹750 crore, a figure expected to increase as the GBA's jurisdiction expands. Officials said this revenue will be crucial for funding payments to contractors and companies managing the city's waste management operations.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Schedules on 09-05-2025 & 13-05-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of President of India, invites registered Bidders to participate in E-Auctions for various contracts as scheduled below.

Sl.	E-Auction Catalogue No.	Stations	Category/ Sub-Category	Date & Time of E-Auctioning
1	PARKING-NTW-03	Parking contract at Nanjangud Town Railway Station	Parking - Mixed	09-05-2025 at 15:00 hours.
2	PARKING-BYD-04	Parking contract at Byadgi Railway Station	Parking - Mixed	13-05-2025 at 15:00 hours.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/75/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru
South Western Railway - SWR | sw_railways | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
PROFORMA 10-01
INDIAN RAILWAYS
"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"
Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the under-noted section of the South Western Railway that the 25000 Volt, 50 Hz., AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line.

Section	Line	Chainage	Probable Date of Energization
Proposed Permanent Diversion of Existing UP and Down Lines Between Bengaluru East (BNCE) to Bengaluru Cantonment (BNC) Stations.	Existing Up line	Km: 349366.100 to Km: 349967.896	15.06.2025
	Existing Down line	Km: 349323.000 to Km: 349966.588	

Place : Bengaluru
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Gati Shakti Unit, Bengaluru
PUB/74/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | sw_railways | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE BENCH
CP No. 111/BB/2024
Between : UNION OF INDIA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Represented by ROC, Karnataka .... Petitioner
And
YELLOW FINANCE AND EARNINGS PRIVATE & OTHERS
...Respondents
To:
1. **YELLOW FINANCE AND EARNINGS PRIVATE LIMITED,**
Having its registered Office at: No: 6,1/1,3rd Floor, Dennis Arcade, 11th Main Road, 1 Stage, Gokula, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore -560 054
...Respondent No.1
2. Mr. LEKSHMI S BABUPURUSHOTHAMAN,
D/o. Babupurushothaman, Aged about 34 years, Director and Shareholder/ Promoter, Yellow Finance & Earnings Private Limited 'TC 52/2363, Thottathil Veedu, Nemon P.O., Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695020. Mobile: 9632317545
Email : lekshmi@loginindian.com .... Respondent No.3

SUMMONS UNDER RULE 38(4) OF NCLT RULES, 2016
Whereas the albove named Petitioner has filed an CP No.111/2024 under Section 221,222,242,246 r/w Section 339 r/w Section 241(2) of the Companies Act, 2013. Wherein you have been cited as Respondents and hereby called upon to appear in this court in person or by Advocate on **02.06.2025 at 10.30 a.m.** to defend yourself, in default of appearance on the day mentioned above, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under ny hand and seal of this Court on this day 30th of April, 2025.
By ORDER OF THE COURT
Registrar,
National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru

Govt. of Karnataka
AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF JOINT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, CHAMARAJANAGARA
Room NO. 202/239, 2nd Floor, District Office Building,Chamarajanagara
Phone No. : 08226-222432 / 225980 Email : jdacrn@gmail.com
No. JDA/ADMIN/O.S./TENDER/2024-25 Date : 28-04-2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kppp portal)
For the year 2025-26, Human Resource Service is required on Outsource basis for Vacancies in the Office of the Joint Director of Agriculture, the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Soil Testing Lab and the Offices of the Assistant Directors of Agriculture of the subordinate taluks for which Tenders have been invited through kppp portal from eligible Agencies. The Service required is for the period of 12 months or till further orders of the department. Interested Tenderers can apply through kppp portal at http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The Tender amount is 122.56 lakhs and as per the Tender rules, the EMD amount is Rs. 2,45,132/- Other conditions and details related to the Tender are attached with the application form. Then the filled tender can be submitted through kppp portal.
Pre bid Meeting Scheduled on dated : 05-05-2025 at 11 AM, Office of the Joint Director of Agriculture, Room No 202, District Office Building, Chamarajanagara.
Last date for Submission of Tender:15-05-2025 at 5:00 PM, Tender Opening Date: 16-05-2025 at 5:00 PM. For more information, Bidders Can Contact at 08226-222432 during Office hours.
Sd/- Joint Director of Agriculture
DIPR : CHANAGAR:43:2025-26 Chamarajanagara

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया BOI
Bank of India
BANK OF INDIA
Bengaluru Zone : # 11, 1st Floor, K. G. Road, Bengaluru-09.**T.:** 080-2295 9407 / 08
E.: bengaluru.ARD@bankofindia.co.in
CORRIGENDUM
Refer to our Vehicle Auction Notice Advertisement of **Mr. Nagaraja D A of Chikballapur Branch** published in "**THE HINDU and UDAYAKALA**" on **30.04.2025**. Kindly read the **Reserve Price as Rs.1,60,000 instead of Rs.18,000 and EMD as Rs. 16,000 instead of Rs.1,800**.
All other terms and conditions will remain the same.
Place: Bangalore **SD/- MANAGER,**
Date : 30/04/2025 **BANK OF INDIA**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/112/2025
Dated : 24-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Construction of Officer's Rest House on 3rd, 4th & 5th Floors (3 Floors) over newly constructed ORH Building at Bengaluru Cantonment. (Composite Tender). **(Tender Ref. No.: BNC-Stn-Development-04)**	Rs. 4,60,93,121/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 21-05-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/70/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 09/MYS/2025 of 25-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Hassan - Mangaluru : Construction of side drain at scattered location for a length of 15513m	Rs. 17,96,49,249/-
2	Mysuru - Chamarajanagar Sec :- Ancillary works for Improvements to RUB No. 825A at Km. 48/660. **Sub Work - I :** RCC Retaining Wall - 40m Length. **Sub Work - II :** Proposed CC Retaining wall 100m length. **Sub Work - III :** Side Drain. **Sub Work - IV :** Approach Road Surfacing. **Sub Work - V :** Misc Works.	Rs. 1,22,33,796/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 Hrs on 19-05-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination Mysuru
PUB/72/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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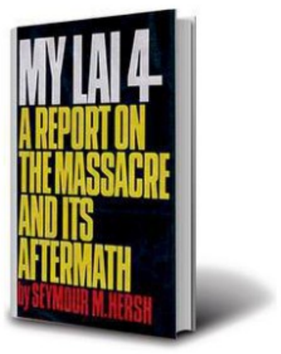
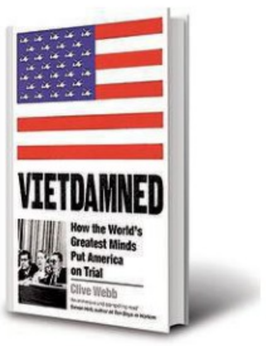
ISSN 0971 - 751X

BIBLIOGRAPHY





Truth to power: People take part in a parade marking the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on April 30. GETTY IMAGES

Eye-openers: from Vietnam to Gaza, ways to hold power to account

Writers chronicle stories from preventable wars and horrors in the hope that some lessons will be learnt for the future. Even if sincere warnings and fervent appeals don't work, civil society and the press must continue to write and document atrocities and excesses

Sudipta Datta

On April 30, Vietnam celebrated 50 years of the reunification of the North and South after the decades-long Vietnam War ended with the government of Saigon surrendering to the North Vietnamese forces in 1975. The American entanglement in the South East Asian country began in November 1955, with the U.S. fearing a communist takeover of the South by North Vietnam. After U.S. Army troops landed in South Vietnam in 1965, it dragged on for 10 more years.

By the mid and late 1960s, however, there was growing disenchantment with the war effort and the rising numbers of the dead. Stories were emanating about atrocities committed by the U.S. troops in Vietnam and anti-war protests began to grow across campuses and in cities including in the capital Washington D.C.

In 1969, journalist Seymour Hersh's attention was drawn to a small news item that a certain Lieutenant William Calley had been charged with the "murder of 102 'Oriental human beings'" in the hamlet of My Lai in Vietnam.

Journalists get to work

Hersh tracked Calley and other members of the 'Charlie Company' who had led the assault on March 16, 1968, and reconstructed the story of the atrocity.

His book, *My Lai 4: A Report on the Massacre and its Aftermath*, is a chilling read about over-reach, and how the killing began without warning, with even women and babies not being spared. The purpose of American troops to be at My Lai that day – to stop the Vietcong troops in their tracks – wasn't served either.

Hersh, like Daniel Ellsberg later with *The Pentagon Papers* leak, was going against the grain of what most journalists were covering on the Vietnam war. Most of them supported the "noble cause". *The Pentagon Papers: The Secret History of the Vietnam War*, by Neil Sheehan and others, first appeared as a series of articles in *The New York Times* in 1971, on the study, revealing in detail, "and in the government's own words", how several U.S. administrations had blundered through a disastrous war. The study had been commissioned in 1967 by then Secretary of Defence Robert McNamara, who had created a unit in the Pentagon to "collect as many internal documents as possible on the Vietnam War." There were 47 volumes in all, covering all aspects of the U.S. involvement in Indochina for decades. Sheehan, a celebrated Vietnam reporter, had got wind of the study and pursued Ellsberg, a senior member of the government-funded Rand Corporation who was privy to it, to share them with him. The war finally ended in 1975, with the *Pentagon Papers* playing a crucial role in its closure.

Bearing witness

In the face of fierce opposition in the late 1960s, philosopher and writer Bertrand Russell, then in his nineties, brought together prominent cultural and political personalities to "bear witness to unrestrained American military action" in Vietnam. In his book, *Vietdamned*, Clive Webb brings to light the peace activism of Russell and other luminaries of the literary world including Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir and Peter Weiss to end the war. They were derided for their activism but Webb sees the tribunal as a cautionary tale and writes about it as a reminder of the "ruthlessness with which politicians and the press attempted to discredit their evidence, and the lessons to be learned about our continued need to hold to account those in power."

That's what journalist Omar El Akkad does in his recent book, *One Day, Everyone Will Always Have Been Against This*. He wonders aloud why the U.S. and the West have been largely immune to the unimaginable suffering of civilians in Gaza unleashed by Israel since the October 7 Hamas attack.

In chapters with titles including Departure, Witness, Fear, Resistance, Language, Arrival, Akkad tries to make sense of the happenings in Gaza; why, for instance, was an 18-month-old found with a bullet wound to the forehead.

The Egyptian-Canadian journalist and writer watched the Gulf War on CNN – "Baghdad cityscapes detonating sporadically in balls of pale white light" – and was soon surprised that there was no reaction at all. "It was just what happened to certain places, to certain people: they became balls of pale white light. What mattered was, it wasn't us." As a journalist, Akkad has travelled to several countries in West Asia and also to Afghanistan, and his view on political malice is fierce: "Rules, conventions, morals, reality itself: all exist so long as their existence is convenient to the preservation of power."

The Gaza tragedy

Things came crashing down after October 2023, he writes, when Israel with the support of a vast majority of the Western world's political power centres enacted a "campaign of active genocide" against the Palestinian people, documented for posterity. More than 50,000 people have died, thousands injured and millions displaced. Death by disease and famine stalks a population wilfully denied aid and medical help. "Over and over, residents were ordered from their neighbourhoods into 'safe zones', and then wiped out."

Akkad is scathing when he writes that "once far enough removed, everyone will be properly aghast that any of this was allowed to happen. But for now, it's so much safer to look away."

The antidote, of course, is to "slip the leash" as Wilfred Burchett put it when he fled from the embedded journalists with Allied forces in Japan in 1945 and set out for Hiroshima. He then went on to record the annihilation he witnessed after the atomic bombing and despatched his piece with the words: "I write this as a warning to the world" (*Tell Me No Lies*/Ed. John Pilger).

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on Vietnam which just observed 50 years of the reunification of North and South

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1
By which famous name is the revolutionary Nguyen Sinh Cung known as?

QUESTION 2
What was the name of the organisation that led the guerrilla war against the U.S. and South Vietnam?

QUESTION 3
Who was the communist leader who negotiated the Paris Peace Accords with Henry Kissinger and won the Nobel Peace Prize but refused to accept it?

QUESTION 4
Name the General and senior leader of the Communist Party of Vietnam who led the victory at Dien Bien Phu against the French.

QUESTION 5
What was the name of the trail used by North Vietnamese forces to transport troops and supplies into South Vietnam, passing through Laos and Cambodia?

Visual question:
Who is the photographer who took this photo?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This U.S. President was inaugurated on April 30, 1789. **Ans: George Washington**
2. This French modernist painter's early works include *The Luncheon on the Grass* and *Olympia*. **Ans: Édouard Manet**
3. Willem-Alexander became king of this country in 2013. **Ans: The Netherlands**
4. This Italian filmmaker is known for his masterpiece *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*. **Ans: Sergio Leone**
5. This politician died by suicide on April 30, 1945. **Ans: Adolf Hitler**
Visual: Identify this filmmaker. **Ans: Dadasaheb Phalke**
Early Birds: Piyali Tuli| Dodo Jayaditya| Sunil Madhavan| Haridas Pal| Arjun Debnath

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Is there a difference between 'imminent' and 'eminent'?"

"Yes, there is. An 'eminent' person is someone who is 'well-known, important and respected' in his profession. For example, J.R.D. Tata was an eminent industrialist."

"Can I say, Sachin Tendulkar is an eminent cricketer?"

"I suppose you could. But the stress is on the first syllable 'em.' It rhymes with the words 'them' and 'hem'."

"I see. My cousin Chandrasekhar is an eminent scientist. Did I say it right this time?"

"Yes, but who is this cousin?"

"I'll tell you about him later. Tell me what imminent means?"

"Once again the stress is on the first syllable. The 'im' in the first syllable sounds like the 'im' in words like 'important,' 'impossible' and 'imp'."

"O.k. But what does it mean?"

"When you say that something is 'imminent' it means it is 'almost certain to happen very soon'. And it is usually associated with something bad. For example, many senior politicians believe that war is imminent."

"How about this example? The people started rioting because they knew that defeat was imminent. So, the eminent cricketer Clive Lloyd called off the match."

"That's an excellent example."

"But I guess you'd prefer not to talk about the World Cup."

You're right. I'd prefer not to talk about it. Thinking about it doesn't put a smile on my face."

"Put a smile on your face? I haven't heard that expression before."

"To 'put a smile on someone's face' means to 'please someone; to make someone happy'. We're planning to give my boss a surprise party tomorrow. That should put a smile on his grumpy face."

"If I get a hundred in tomorrow's test, it should put a smile on my father's face."

"I told my mother that I'd been given a big raise. That put a big smile on her face."

"I ran into Gopa today and "

"....I'm sure that didn't put a smile on your face."

"It did actually. I like him. Why don't you?"

"I think he speaks with a forked tongue."

"A forked tongue! What does it mean?"

"It means 'to tell lies, to try and deceive someone'. For example, my neighbour is a very charming man, but he speaks with a forked tongue."

"Meaning he tells a lot of lies."

"Yes, that's right."

"Is it o.k. to say that people in power speak with a forked tongue?"

"It certainly is. The hawala case has shown us precisely that. But the problem is we don't know who is speaking with a forked tongue."

"Eminent politicians "

"....leading the country to imminent disaster!"

"That certainly won't put a smile on anybody's face!"

Published in The Hindu on May 7, 1996.

Word of the day

Abashed:
feeling or caused to feel ill at ease or self-conscious or ashamed

Synonyms: chagrined, embarrassed

Usage: *He was a little abashed by all the attention he got at the party.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/abashedpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əˈbæʃt//

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Businessman killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A businessman was killed and his wife injured when a canter crashed into the car they were travelling in near Sadarahalli signal on Wednesday morning. M.N. Kumar Babu, 58, a resident of Jakkur, was heading to Devanahalli with his family for a pooja for a newly-bought property. His was sitting in the backseat of the car along with his wife Varalakshmi while his son was in front.

The car had stopped at the signal when a speeding goods vehicle lost control and crashed into it. It further crashed into six others vehicles before coming to a stop.

The other occupants of the vehicle escaped with minor injuries while Kumar Babu sustained severe injuries. The couple was rushed to the hospital where Kumar was declared dead. Varalakshmi is under treatment and is said to be out of danger.

The canter driver abandoned the vehicle and escaped.

17-year-old dies as tanker hits bike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 17-year-old pillion rider was killed and the rider was injured when a milk tanker knocked them down at BHEL underpass in Sadashivanagar on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Harsha, a resident of Srirampura, who was on his way to work with his friend Sachin, 16, who was riding the motorcycle. The duo was working at a jewellery store on BEL Road and were on the way to work at around 6.30 am.

According to the police, the driver of the tanker Nagesh was drunk and driving in a rash manner. He knocked the motorcycle. down. Sachin lost balance and the duo fell on the road. Harsha sustained severe injuries and was rushed to M.S. Ramaiah Hospital where he was declared as brought dead. Sachin also sustained injuries but is said to be out of danger.

The Sadashivanagar traffic police have arrested the driver and seized the truck for further investigation charging him under death due to negligence.

भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008

Extension of IMU-CET 2025 Registration Date

The last date for registration of IMU-CET 2025 is extended till **6PM, 06.05.2025.** There is no change in IMU-CET date.

To register
Please Scan the below QR Code

Please visit: **www.imu.edu.in**
for further details.

INDIAN RAILWAYS

National Contest for Digital Clock Designing

Commencement Date: 01.05.2025 **Closing Date:** 31.05.2025

Submission Method: High-resolution images (minimum 300 DPI, more than 2 MB) without watermark or logo, to be sent via email to **contest.pr@rb.railnet.gov.in.**

Originality: Submissions must be original, free from intellectual property violations, and accompanied by a Certification of Originality.

Ownership: Copyright of the selected designs will rest with Indian Railways.
Multiple Entries: Allowed with separate originality certifications.

Category	1st Prize	Consolation prize
Professional	₹5,00,000/-	05 consolation prizes of Rs. 50,000 each
College Students (Pursuing education from any recognized university)		05 consolation prizes of Rs. 50,000 each
School Students (upto 12th class)		05 consolation prizes of Rs. 50,000 each

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS: • Certificate of Recognition for all winners • Free 3A-Class Railway Pass for each winner and one companion, for travel to and from their home location to the award ceremony venue

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES: • Designs must be innovative, practical for implementation, and reflect the spirit of Indian Railways • Participants are encouraged to provide a brief concept note (up to 300 words) explaining the idea behind their design • Submissions with any form of plagiarism or copyright infringement will be disqualified

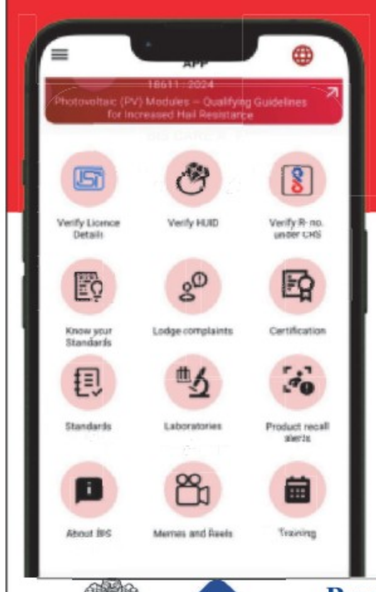
For further details and terms & conditions visit the official website of Indian Railways at www.indianrailways.gov.in

मानकः पथप्रदर्शकः
सत्यमेव जयते

Purity for Prosperity

This
Akshaya Tritiya
Look for HUID on Gold Jewellery to ensure authenticity and purity

#HallmarkHaiTohSonaHai



- Sale of gold jewellery and gold artefacts hallmarked without six-digit HUID code has been prohibited in the country from 1st April 2023.
- BIS Hallmark now comprises three mandatory markings :

BIS Logo	22K916 Purity of Gold in Carats & Fineness (for 22 carat gold)	****** Six Digit Alphanumeric HUID Code unique to each jewellery article

- The authenticity of HUID can be verified through BIS Care App's "Verify HUID" feature.

Scan to download BIS Care App Available on

सत्यमेव जयते
मानकः पथप्रदर्शकः

Bureau of Indian Standards
Bengaluru Branch Office
Peenya Industrial Area. 1st Stage,
Tumkur Road, Bengaluru- 560058

Website: www.bis.gov.in
Follow us on: @IndianStandards
email: bnbo@bis.gov.in

Government of Karnataka

Department of Labour
Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board

Greetings of "International Workers Day"

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Major schemes and programs
implemented by the Labour Department for the welfare of workers in the last two years

Commissionerate of Labour

- To ensure gratuity for employees, the Karnataka Compulsory Gratuity Insurance Rules 2024 are being put into effect.
- There has been a revision to the minimum wage for employees in a number of scheduled industries. A total of 1.7 crore organized and unorganized workers throughout the state will receive a revised wage.
- To safeguard the interests of employees, a notification has been issued and the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act-1961 has been extended to all regions of the state.

Karnataka State Labour Institute, Bengaluru

- The main objective of this Institute is to provide training to the officers, staff, employees of the Labour Department, various types of industries and factories, so that the Labour Department can function in an effective manner. A total of 1572 personnel have been trained over the period of last two years and 154 different training programs have been organized by the Institute.

On behalf of the government, I would like to thank you for your hard work, dedication, and the role you have played in the development of the country.
||SHRAMA MEVA JAYATHE||
- Santhosh S Lad, Hon'ble Minister for Labour

Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board

- Various welfare and social security facilities have been provided to 36.29 lakh beneficiaries at a cost of Rs. 2078.91 crore.
- The Board has organized preventive health check-up camps, and 11.38 lakh workers have been benefited from the scheme.
- In the interest of the health of registered construction workers, the Board has launched 100 new Mobile Health Unit vehicles across the state.
- 6.12 lakh construction workers have been registered as beneficiaries during this period.
- Rs. 2370 crore cess has been collected from building and other construction works.
- 43 Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Karmika Seva Kendras are being setup.

Karnataka State Unorganized Workers Social Security Board

- The Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers Social Security and Welfare Development Act, 2024 has been implemented to provide social security benefits to motor transport and other allied workers.
- The Karnataka State Gig Workers Insurance Scheme has been implemented to provide insurance benefits of Rs. 4.00 lakhs including life insurance, accident insurance and reimbursement of hospital expenses to gig workers in the e-commerce sector.
- The Karnataka Cine and Cultural Activists (Welfare) Act, 2024, is being implemented.
- Karnataka State Daily News Paper Delivery Workers Accident benefit & Health benefit Scheme, has been framed to provide accident compensation and medical facility to daily newspaper distribution workers
- Ashadeepa Scheme, which provides employment opportunities to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in private sectors, is being revised and implemented.

Karnataka Labour Welfare Board

- Education benefit of Rs. 5103.04 lakhs is distributed to the children of 56,183 beneficiaries.
- Medical assistance of Rs. 1.55 lakhs is provided to 10 beneficiaries.
- 808 beneficiaries received a total of Rs. 80.80 lakhs in aid for the funeral of deceased workers.
- Rs.140.80 lakhs is provided as financial assistance to 1408 female beneficiaries under maternity allowance facility.
- At a total cost of Rs. 21.5 crores, community halls have been constructed for the benefit of labourers in Bellary, Naragund in Gadag district, Rattihalli in Haveri district, and Bhadravati in Shivamogga district.

Department of Factories, Boilers Industrial Safety and Health

- Implementation of reforms under Ease of Doing Business.
  1. Flexibility in daily working hours without changing the ceiling of 48 hours per week.
  2. Overtime work is allowed up to 144 hours in a period of 3 months.
  3. Women workers are allowed to work in all three shifts and over time.
- To create awareness on safety, health and accident prevention, 212 training programmes and 21 seminars have been conducted.
- The Department has conducted 21,737 inspections and initiated legal proceedings in 309 cases.

Directorate of Workers' State Insurance Scheme Medical Services (ESIS)

- Medical services are being provided to 37 lakh insured persons and 1.88 crore dependents of insured persons across the state through 07 ESI hospitals, 02 diagnostic centres and 125 ESI clinics in the state.
- New ESI clinics have been opened at Chincholi, Arsikere, Ganjimata and Padubidri.
- In the budget for 2024-25, ESI schemes have been formulated to implement super specialty services, digital diagnostic kiosks, mobile health units, comprehensive health check-ups at a total cost of Rs. 311 crores.

Sri Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister and
Sri Santhosh S Lad, Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Board President participate in departmental programme

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For more details, contact : Labour Officers, Senior Labour Inspectors/ Office of Labour Inspectors

Dr. N.V Prasad I.A.S., Secretary to Govt, Department of Labour
Dr. H.N. Gopalkrishna I.A.S., Commissioner, Department of Labour
Bharathi. D I.A.S, C.E.O & Secretary, KBOCWWB

Take up socio-economic survey with caste count, CM urges Centre

Rahul Gandhi has put a lot of pressure on the Centre by sustaining the momentum for caste enumeration for many years now and the Narendra Modi-led govt. has yielded to the pressure of the Congress and its leaders, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has welcomed the Centre's decision on conducting the caste census along with the population Census, but urged the Union government to conduct a socio-economic and educational survey along with enumeration of castes.

"It is a welcome development that the BJP, which has for years been saying that caste census divides society and that it is a ploy to splinter the Hindus, has finally accepted the reality and understood the social importance of a caste census," he said in a statement.

He pointed out that Karnataka has already conducted the socio-economic and educational survey and the report was tabled in the State Cabinet on April 17. Efforts are being made to increase the reservation to various castes based on the survey data, he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the caste survey would help formulate reservation on a scientific basis, and the Supreme Court too had upheld the necessity of conducting the survey when the demand for quota was questioned in the court.

"Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has put a lot of pressure on the Centre by sustaining the momentum for the caste census for many years now. The Narendra Modi-led government has yielded to the pressure of the Congress and its leaders," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

> It is a welcome development that the BJP, which has for years been saying that caste census divides society and that it is a ploy to splinter the Hindus, has finally accepted the reality and understood the social importance of a caste census.
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

> The National Democratic Alliance government seems to be embracing the Karnataka model of the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey by announcing that it will include caste enumeration as part of the next Census.
>
> **H.K. PATIL,** Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister

The Chief Minister said the Opposition BJP in Karnataka opposed the caste census, but now, the Central Cabinet has adopted the Congress demand just like the party's guarantees were copied by the Modi-led government, he said.

'Embracing our model'

Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism Minister H.K. Patil said the NDA government seems to be embracing the Karnataka model of the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey by announcing that it would include caste enumeration as part of the next Census.

Mr. Patil told *The Hindu* that the Centre had yielded to the pressure of the Congress. "The recently held AICC session in Ahmedabad deliberated at length on the necessity of conducting a caste census to ensure social and economic justice to the other backward classes," he said.

The Congress in its election manifesto mentioned the necessity of conducting the caste census. AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge on April 16, 2023, wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urged him to conduct a comprehensive caste census.

The Law Minister contented that the Centre appeared to have taken the decision to conduct the caste census after the Karnataka Socio-Economic and Educational Survey report was tabled in the Cabinet and received widespread attention.

In next Cabinet

The State Cabinet meeting scheduled to meet on May 9 would deliberate on the matter and decide the future course of action on the survey report conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

As more details are to be known on the Centre's decision on conducting caste census, he said the next Cabinet meeting would discuss the Centre decision as well.

Centre's caste census will clear confusion over State's data: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party's Karnataka unit has described the decision of the Centre to conduct a caste census along with the general census as "historic" and maintained that the Centre's caste census would go a long way in "ending the confusion" over the findings of the caste census taken up by the Congress government in the State.

In a statement, BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan maintained that the Congress government in Karnataka had conducted the caste census in the guise of Socio-Economic and Educational Survey, though it did not have the authority to take up such a census.

"The proposed caste census to be taken up by the Centre using its authority in a legal and scientific manner will put an end to all the confusion triggered by Karnataka's caste census," Dr. Ashwath Narayan maintained.

Meanwhile, Opposition Chief Whip in the Legislative Council N. Ravikumar expressed concern that Karnataka's caste census findings had been disputed by various communities as their population size had been allegedly under-enumerated. However, the Centre's proposed caste census would now serve as the main data for various projects and schemes to be taken up in future, he said.

C.N. Ashwath Narayan

Taking to X, Union Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy said, "This is a major decision that will provide official, scientific and transparent data on castes. I am of the firm view that it will be very unlike the politically-motivated State-wise surveys."

'Mann Ki Baat is a one-way street; debate is the defining character of democracy'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The idea behind building a monument to Anubhava Mantapa is to remind ourselves that debate, discussion, and dissent form the foundations of democracy, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the occasion of Basava Jayanti, speaking at Kudalasangama in Bagalkot district.

"Debate is the defining character of democracy. If there is no debate, then it is a dictatorship and not a democracy. A dictatorship does not allow an exchange of thoughts. It is a one-way communication, like Mann Ki Baat. Those who indulge in it only speak, but do not listen. We have to strive against such one-way communication and keep democracy and the culture of debate alive," he said at the event organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture and the district administration.

He said that his government had begun the construction of the Anubhava Mantapa monument at Basavakalyan. It is believed that Basavanna, in the 12th century, conceived of Anubhava Mantapa as a place where mystics, saints, and philosophers met to debate religious and social issues.

"We announced Basavanna to be the cultural leader of Karnataka. We mandated that his portraits be put up in all government offices, schools, and colleges. Why? To spread awareness about him and the socio-cultural revolution he led in the State in the 12th century. His philosophy is powerful enough to lead the world, and people across the globe should know about him," he said.

Birth anniversary: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah paying tribute to 12th-century philosopher Basaveshwara in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

A procession being taken out as part of Basava Jayanti celebration at Thegur village near Chikkamagaluru. PTI

He said the State government would positively consider demands such as protecting the resting places and memorials of Sharanas and Sharanes. "We have also received demands like installing statues of Basavanna in Bengaluru and Kudalasangama. We will do all that. We are also planning to complete the construction of the Anubhava Mantapa at Basavakalyan this year. However, we should also attach equal importance to following the philosophy of Sharanas," he said.

"We keep chanting vachanas against the caste system, but go around discriminating in the name of caste. This should stop. On this Basava Jayanti, we should vow to follow the ideals of Sharanas, including ending caste-based discrimination and erasing blind belief, and belief in fate and destiny," said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Egalitarian society

"The real tribute to Basavanna and other Sharanas is to live according to their ideology," he added. "Basavanna and other Sharanas lived in Karnataka 900 years ago. They dreamt of an equal society and fought against discrimination on the basis of caste, class, and gender, and against blind belief. However, even now, we have not been able to realise the dream of an equal society. We need to read and understand their ideology expressed in the vachanas, adhere to it and implement it in our lives," he said.

Earlier in the day in Bengaluru, he participated in the Vishwa Guru Basava Jayanti celebrations organised by the Basava Samiti and observed that it was the duty of all Kannadigas as well as Indians to remember Basavanna and his ideology.

Vande Bharat Express to connect Bengaluru and Belagavi soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vande Bharat Express is set to extend its route to Belagavi, bringing a much-awaited high-speed rail service to commuters between Kittur Karnataka region and the State capital.

The extension has received official approval, and operations are expected to begin shortly, offering a faster and more convenient travel option to passengers.

Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V. Somanna confirmed that the Railway Ministry has cleared the proposal to run the semi-high-speed train from Belagavi. The green signal came from Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw following a formal request submitted earlier this year.

A file photo of the Vande Bharat Express in Belagavi.

In March 2025, a delegation led by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, including Jagadish Shettar, MP, and Iranna Kadadi, Rajya Sabha member, met Mr. Vaishnaw in New Delhi to press for the early extension of the service. They submitted a list of demands, with the inclusion of Belagavi on the Vande Bharat route being a top priority.

Currently, the Vande Bharat Express operates between Bengaluru and Hubballi via Dharwad. With the approved extension, the train will start its journey from Belagavi in the morning, although the exact date of commencement is yet to be announced.

Officials have described this move as the fulfilment of a long-pending public demand.

"The extension to Belagavi will not only reduce travel time but also improve comfort and connectivity across major districts in Karnataka," Mr. Somanna said.

"The introduction of the service is expected to significantly benefit regular travellers, including professionals, students, and businesspersons commuting between the two cities and across Kittur Karnataka," the official added.

Summer vacation for CAT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Bengaluru Bench, will have summer vacation from May 1 to 30. During this period, the vacation Bench will function and hear and dispose of urgent matters on the following dates: May 7, 14, 21, and 28, from 11 a.m.

The timings for filing the application during the summer vacation will be from 10 .30 a.m. to 1 p.m., according to a notification from CAT, Bengaluru Bench.

Legislators from Mandya set up eight endowment awards in S.M. Krishna's name

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy, legislators, and admirers of former Chief Minister late S.M. Krishna have contributed ₹45 lakh to set up a corpus to give eight endowment awards to people who have excelled in different fields such as agriculture, literature, law, and arts. The interest earned from the amount will be utilised for presenting the awards. Mr. Cheluvarayanaswamy, who is also the district in-charge Minister of Mandya, has contributed ₹10 lakh, and it will be used to give an award to a progressive farmer identified by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, and the award for the best social service person identified by the Karnataka Sangha, Mandya.

Maddur MLA K.M. Uday has contributed ₹10 lakh, and it will be used for giving awards to two gold medal students of the University of Mysore. Malavalli MLA and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board chairman P.M. Narendra Swamy has deposited ₹5 lakh for giving a prize for a gold medallist student in the Law University while A.B. Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda, MLA, and chairman of CESC, has contributed ₹5 lakh for giving award to best artist student of the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Bengaluru.

Mandya MLA Ravikumar Ganiga has donated ₹5 lakh for gold medal students of the Mandya Agricultural University while Venkataramana Gowda ('Star' Chandru) has contributed ₹5 lakh towards a literary award by the Kannada Sahitya Parishat. Dinesh Guli Gowda, MLC representing the Mandya district, has donated ₹5 lakh for the best student of Ramakrishna Ashram, Mysuru, said an official press release.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AISHA Begam W/o Fazlul Rahman Residing at No.123, Jamma Masjid Road, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560051 Karnataka have changed my name to Aisha Begum vide affidavit dated 29-04-2025 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

I, MOHAMMED Owais Khan S/o Mudasir Khan residing at No.43/110, Near Aqsa Masjid, Pillaganhalli, Bannerghatta, Bengaluru-560083 Karnataka have changed my name to Arbaz Khan vide affidavit dated 29-04-2025 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

I, Kamala Gopinath Shastry W/O, K Gopinath Shastry R/o No.19/20, Shankari, 11th Cross, Near Nemmadi Vishranthi Dhama, Vidyamanya Nagar, Andrahalli Main Road, Viswaneedam Post, Bengaluru - 560091. have changed my name to Kamala Dixit H S.

I, Hitherto Known as S. Karikalan Alias Karikalan S S/o Sigamani M Residing at 105 First Floor Sapphire Block Wilson Marior Apartments, 15 Arekempanahalli Bangalore, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560027, Have Changed My Name and Shall Hereafter Be Known as Karikalan Sigamani for All Future Purposes

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MAMATHA, D/o Abdul Sab, age 32 years, R/at No. 227, 4th Mani, Nrupathunganagara, Near Ramaiah City, J.P. Nagara 7th Phase, Bengaluru-560 078 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MUMTAZ .A** to **MAMATHA**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **MAMATHA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 19-04-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. DAYANANDA** at Bangalore.

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TENDERS

Chennai Port Authority
Marine Department,
6th Floor, Centenary Building,
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Auction Notice
No.S2/280/2025/M

e-Auction is invited for the sale of Floating Craft Tug Bharathiar in 'as is where is' condition. e-Auction will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. for further details/corrigendum, if any, visit www.mstccommerce.com, www.chennaiport.gov.in.

Auction date is 22. 05.2025

S/d-
Deputy Conservator.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

Rajagopalan Srinivasan
12.09.1931 - 25.04.2025

Sri.Rajagopalan Srinivasan was the beloved husband of Smt. Kalyani Srinivasan (néeT.K.Kalyani) and son of Sri K.S.Rajagopalan (Kumbakonam) and Smt.Rajalakshmi Rajagopalan, all of whom predeceased him. Srinivasan was born in Chennai, lived in Kumbakonam,and went to high school in Pudukottai, where he graduated with a gold medal.He was an honors Mechanical Engineering graduate of Guindy Engineering College, Chennai. Srinivasan had an illustrious career in Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) Limited in Bengaluru and then in Hyderabad. Afterwards, he joined the TVS Group as Group Technical Adviser at Padi, Chennai, and then worked in Sundaram Clayton in Chennai and Hosur as the Head of the Railway Products division. He was widely admired for his brilliance, technical acumen, and leadership qualities.In 1998, he and his wife moved to the United States. He worked in the US and lived independently until his 90th birthday, caring for his wife until she passed away in April 2015.

Srinivasan was a loving, attentive, and dutiful son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle. He was instrumental in guiding, helping, and profoundly shaping the lives of his three daughters as well as many people both in his close family and extended circle.

His demise is very deeply mourned by

his three daughters and sons-in-law (Rajashri Srinivasan and Reuben Besant Raj, Jayashri Srinivasan and V.S.Balakrishnan, Subhashri and Ramanujam Srinivasan); grandchildren (Medha, Tara, Manav,Rowan, and Rajiv); grandchildren-in-law (Anirudh Jangalapalli, Evan Moore, Rachel Leshin and Roxanne Anderson); and great-granddaughter (Anya Jangalapalli).

He will also be fondly remembered and dearly missed by

his brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, the entire K.S.R.and T.K. families, nieces, nephews, extended family members, his friends,and his former colleagues.

For condolences or memories, please feel free to reach out to:
Rajashri Srinivasan at srinivasan.rajashri@gmail.com;
Jayashri Srinivasan at jayashri_srinivasan@yahoo.com;
Subhashri(Shuba)Srinivasan at srinivasanshuba@gmail.com.

‘Bengaluru by 2030 is expected to have a home furnishing potential of about ₹216 billion’

The city is a huge growth market, along with Delhi, and one of the priority markets of IKEA, says its Country Expansion Manager Pooja Grover

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

On Tuesday, April 29, there is feverish activity at the Essensai 067 Experience Centre on Whitefield-Hoskote Road. There is one day to go for Swedish home furnishings retailer IKEA to throw open its first ‘Plan and Order Point’ (PaOP) in India and the staff is busy adding finishing touches to the curated setups.

The 740 sqm space is nowhere comparable in size to the flagship store in Nagasandra, but serves the retailer’s aim to expand - both in format as well as geographically - to serve bustling East Bengaluru.

There were a few curious customers who were already exploring the store when *The Hindu* was invited to take a sneak peek at the store. Pooja Grover, Country Expansion Manager, IKEA India, finds a green couch in a living room set up where a child is playing next to a kids’ chair. “We are four stores old in the country, and for a while we did not expand further. But now we have some plans to expand the physical stores. What we are focusing on is accessibility and convenience. Our main name in this phase of growth is to be accessible to many people. We wanted to be in the East for a very long time,” she said, as she explained the vision behind the PaOP.

Spanning 740 sqm, the PaOP, according to IKEA, serves as a dedicated customer meeting point, bringing expert home design knowledge closer to customers with personalised consultations, flexible planning support, and seamless installation services SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Inside IKEA Plan and Order Point store. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Purpose of new format

Spanning 740 sqm, the new format, according to IKEA, serves as a dedicated customer meeting point, bringing expert home design knowledge closer to customers with personalised consultations, flexible planning support, and seamless installation services.

The PaOP, Grover said, is comparable to a design planning studio in the local market. “It gives you a personalised service for your home planning needs. You have the option of using one of our home furnishing consultants. You also have the option of doing it yourself. After the planning, the orders are placed and then you have the option of taking it online or having it delivered to your home or you can have a pickup option from here or you can have a pickup option from Nagasandra,” she explained. “In terms of size, of course, Nagasadra is the mother store at 40,000 sq. mt store, while this is 740 sq. mt. In terms of articles, the mother store has 7000 plus articles. Here, we have quite a lot of articles displayed and we have a curated range for pickup. You will anyway have access to the full range by digital means. It’s more like an omni channel approach what we’re trying to explore and move towards the next phase of growth,” she said.

Pooja Grover

On why Bengaluru was chosen to start the first such store, she said IKEA’s focus is on the six cities - Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Pune and Chennai. “Bengaluru by 2030 is expected to have a home furnishing potential of about 216 billion INR. It’s a huge growth market, along with Delhi. And it’s one of our priority markets, so we are exploring to have quite a few of stores in various formats here. Why east of Bengaluru? It’s the IT hub, and because of that, you have a lot of young professionals here who are well-travelled, diverse, and from all over the country. If you do a mapping of the residential hotspots, you can see there’s huge amounts of residential catchments being added in the east along Hosakote and Sarjapur and these areas,” she further said.

IKEA India’s first Plan and Order Point in Whitefield. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Asked if there are more such PaOPs in the pipeline, she said they are exploring options of other store sizes and formats and the the needs and choices will vary based on catchment and availability of real estate and various other factors. “For example, in a residential hotspot, we will go for a PaOP like this, but if I have to open something in the centre of Bengaluru where there’s hardly any new homes happening, there I might cater to the need with a small store which has cash and carry items and takeaways for your home refresh. So, we are trying to tailor the format to the local characteristics of that particular cluster,” she further said.

Grover revealed that IKEA has more smaller stores planned in all the six cities.

‘Pin code mapping’

She also spoke of how the retailer caters to each city differently. “We do our life at home studies and then we try and figure out what is the home size, how people live, how people work, what are their needs. To give a few examples, when we are doing our room settings, in Mumbai, it will be smaller than Bengaluru, while in Hyderabad, it will be larger. And now we have taken it a bit more to the specific needs of the clusters, now that in the existing markets, we have a better knowledge as to where our customers are buying, what they’re buying. So we are taking it to the next level of catering to not only the city needs, but also going to a bit more to the pin code mapping and understanding what the cluster requires.”

Asked if they have noticed a difference in needs of the Nagasandra store in comparison to the Whitefield one, she said in East Bengaluru, there are young professionals focussed towards storage, organising, and choices based on global travel. “The family sizes differ, and there is also the owner-renter combination. Here (Whitefield) the homes are more rented, while there the homes are more owned,” she added.

How markets compare

Responding to a question on what IKEA’s biggest learnings have been since they opened their first store in India in 2018 in Hyderabad, she said, “In Europe and in other countries, it’s the third generation of people who are exposed to the brand. Here, if you’ve traveled abroad, then you’re aware of the brand, yes, but otherwise, it is the first generation. Second, from the needs perspective as well, our needs are very different from those of the European homes. So some of the products get tailored for those particular requirements as well.” Some of the cook shop range, for instance, is focused on the Indian home requirements such as pressure cookers, she said. “We have plans to increase local sourcing to a substantial number in the next few years. There will be a lot of tailoring to the Indian homes’ requirements in terms of function, colour, taste, etc,” she concluded.

Janapada academy invites entries for book awards for folk literature

Submissions are accepted in four categories: Folk Prose, Folk Poetry, Folk Criticism / Research and Folk Anthology. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Janapada Academy (KJA) has invited entries for the 2024 book awards under the folk literature category. The awards will be given to outstanding books published for the first time between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Eligible works must contain at least 150 pages (excluding technical and preliminary pages) . Submissions are accepted in four categories: Folk Prose, Folk Poetry, Folk Criticism / Research and Folk Anthology.

The Registrar, KJA, in a release stated that authors, publishers, or editors can submit one book each for consideration.

Entries must be submitted by post, courier, or in person by Tuesday, May 20, 2025 to the Registrar, Karnataka Janapada Academy, 2nd Floor, Kannada Bhavana, J.C. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.

If selected in the preliminary expert evaluation, authors will be required to submit three additional copies of the book for final assessment.

Early Bird launches 6th edition of The Young Birders’ Workshop

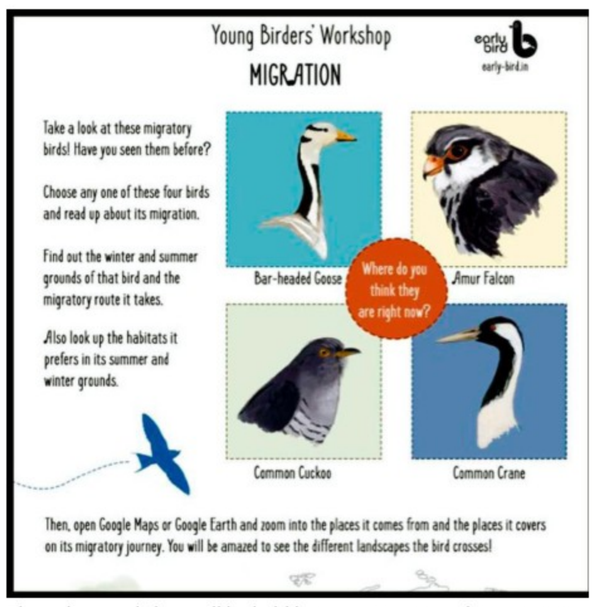
This online workshop aims to help children delve deeper into the world of birds and start observing other organisms they share their spaces with

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Early Bird, a not-for-profit initiative to bring children closer to birds and nature, is geared to launch the 6th edition of The Young Birders’ Workshop. This online workshop aims ‘to help children delve deeper into the world of birds and start observing the other organisms they share their spaces with’.

The online workshop will be held between May 11 and June 8.

While birdwatching is emerging as a popular hobby among Indians, people often get stuck just on ticking bird names off their lists. The workshop is an intensive programme spread over four weeks and designed for young birdwatchers between the ages of 10-13 years. It will explore different themes related to birds, and includes a combination of multimedia, guided interactions, lively discussions and outdoor exploration activities given as homework assignments between weekly sessions.



The online workshop will be held between May 11 and June 8, 2025. EARLY BIRD

The workshop is designed for young birdwatchers between the age of 10-13 years

The themes are designed to facilitate deep observations about birds, and the linked activities will help participants explore green spaces around their homes independently. They are expected to provide an excellent learning experience during their summer holidays.

Additionally, weekly live sessions will be facilitated online over consecutive weekends, accompanied by an illustrated activity sheet that not only recaps what was learned about the chosen theme, but also shares new activities that participants can pursue independently. This way, ‘the workshop will allow participants to really get to know the environment around their own homes, which they have always lived with, but perhaps never quite noticed’.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 1, 1975

Expansion Plans of Soap Factory

Bangalore: The Government Soap Factory here has programmes to expand its production capacity from 6,000 metric tonnes to 26,000 metric tonnes per annum involving an investment of Rs. 2.5 crores.

The Factory proposes to set up a fatty acid plant to split and distill the inedible oils for use in soap manufacture to mee the difficulties in securing oils and fats.

The present production is around 5,000 m. tonnes. A modernisation scheme has been completed with the installation of the continuous saponification plant imported from Italy.

Directive on Job Reservation in Public Sector Units

Bangalore: The Karnataka Government has decided to issue a directive to all the public sector undertakings in which it has major shares, to make necessary provision for job reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes.

The Cabinet took this decision after considering the opinion expressed on the floor of the Legislature and also by the Legislature Committee on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

According to the directive, the pattern of reservation would be on the lines of the reservation made in the State Civil Service where 15 percent of vacancies are reserved for Scheduled Castes, three percent for Scheduled Tribes and 30 per cent for backward classes.

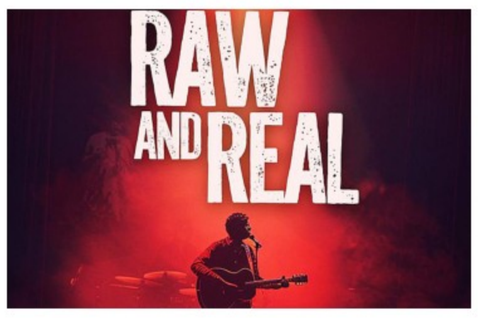
CITYBEATS

A slice of life

MAY 3
The Middle of Everything, a book by Vivek Atray will be launched at Atta Galatta. The book encapsulates 56 short, humorous and inspirational pieces in a manner that captures life's essence. The author is also a motivational speaker and former IAS officer.
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar, at 3pm. Entry free. For details call 9632510126.

Light moments

MAY 3
Standup comedian Pranav Sharma will be performing in Bengaluru this Saturday. Pranav is known for transforming everyday experiences into sharp, relatable comedy with his unique take on middle class mindsets, career woes, and life's unexpected ironies.
At Fan Park, 2nd Floor, Phoenic Mall Of Asia, 5pm onwards. Tickets on BookMyShow.



Live melodies

MAY 3
This upcoming live music event is titled Raw and Real - A Moksha 360 Live Music Series. The event will feature Megan Rakesh (Meg and the Miracles), Sylvester Pradeep and Suraj Mani (Motherjane). The event has been curated by Bobby Baskaran and Richard Dudley.
At 7:30pm at Alliance Française de Bangalore. Tickets on Skillboxes.

Classical dancer Shubha Dhananjay, is this year's recipient of the National Achievement Award, instituted by the Srishti Institute of Performing Arts

Fluid grace

Ranjani Govind

Among the few artistes in the State to master both Bharatnatyam and Kathak, Shubha Dhananjay is a pioneer when it comes to using special Kannada compositions in her performances.

Shubha, who is currently president of the Karnataka Sangeeta Nrithya Academy, has also mastered several forms of folk art and is passionately involved in training her students in the same, at her dance institute Natyantharanga, which was established in 1987.

Over the past four decades, Shubha has amassed awards and accolades at state, national and international levels. Apart from judging dance competitions, Shubha produces ballets for Natyantharanga and grooms students at Karana, which she began in 2006, to impart vocal, instrumental, dance and yoga training.

On May 5, the Srishti Institute of Performing Arts led by dancer Dr AV Sathyanarayana, and in association with the Rotary Bugle Rock organisation in Bengaluru, will bestow the National Achievement Award on Shubha, as part of their World Dance Day celebrations. The award ceremony will be followed by her Bharatanatyam performance.

"I feel honoured and thank Srishti for extending this award to me. It is gratifying to be in a line-up of awardees that has included names such as Vyjayanthimala, Birju Maharaj, vocalist RK Srikantan and flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia among others," says Shubha.

Auspicious start
Born in Thirthahalli in Shimoga district to N Narasimhaiah, an engineer, and Lolakshamma, a dance and music enthusiast, destiny played a part in Shubha's future when her father was transferred to Bengaluru when she was seven. "Eager to find a dance guru for me, my parents were thrilled when guru SV Srinivas, a simple man in a *dhoti* and *kurta*, arrived at our doorstep after hearing we were eager to learn dance," says Shubha.

"We were undergoing fundamental lessons in the Mysore and Pandanallur styles when Guru Srinivas, who originally hailed from Madurai, had moved to Bengaluru and was looking to train students in the Tanjore style. We did not hesitate to join him as he belonged to a lineage of gurus who were instrumental in the establishment of Kalakshetra in Chennai."

Though dance was a passion from childhood, Shubha's family believed she would follow in her brother's footsteps as he was pursuing medicine at Bangalore Medical College at the time. However, that was also when dancer Maya Rao shifted from Delhi to Bengaluru and began the Natya Institute of Kathak and Choreography that offered degree courses for dancers. "Nothing could stop me from knocking at her door, and the world of dance widened further for me."

In the 1980s, the word choreography was novel, to say nothing of a degree in the same. Shubha explains that while artistes wondered what such a course would entail, students were equally curious about the possibilities this stream could offer.

"Our study of choreography was shastra-based and substantial, with Natyashastra as our foundation, with dimensions of stage, lighting, language and costumes. We were also exposed to the history of choreography, world history of dance, folk dances of India and the world, as well as ensemble production," says Shubha, adding, universities and dance platforms eventually began inviting her for lectures on comparative studies and philosophies of choreography.

Globe trotter
Soon after Shubha's Bharatanatya Ranga Pravesha in 1987, which was attended by the likes of art critics such as BVK Shastry, TB Narasimhachar, Gunagrahi and SN Chandrashekar, she was awarded the Best Dancer Gold Medals, at both the state and national levels. Following this, she was selected to perform at the Vishwa Kannada Sammelana in London.

"I have been on world stages for the last 37 years and looking back, it is gratifying to see thousands of students who trained at Natyantharanga come into their own. Among the awards I have received, I am grateful to have been selected as the Cultural Ambassador in Bali, Indonesia, and for the French Canadian Heritage Society Fellowship Award from Montreal University in Canada and the Ugadi Puraskar from the Lalithakala Academy among others."

Sree Devi Mahatme, Mohini Bhasmasura, Srinivasa Kalyana, Kanmani Krishna, Radha Madhava, Mysuru Huli Tippu Sultan, and *Kittur Rani Chennamma* are a few of Shubha's works that have been presented at major literary, cultural and religious festivals such as the Kannada Sahitya Sammelana, Mysore Dasara, Mahamastakabhisheka at Shravanabelagola and the Hampi Utsava, apart from global dance festivals in the United States, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Maldives, Nepal, Iraq, China, Cambodia and Malaysia.

> My father had translated several compositions from Tamil to Kannada which I took up in my recitals.
> **SHUBHA DHANANJAY**
> Danseuse

Shubha has also choreographed special ballets including *Vachana Vaibhava* which incorporates *vachanas* by saint poets such as Basavanna, Akka Mahadevi, Siddarama, Sarvajna and Kuvempu.

Cherished treasures
While crediting her husband Dhananjay for being a pillar of support and steering Natyantharanga, she is happy her daughters Maya and Mudra perform with her, taking its legacy forward. "My father Narasimaiah was a multi-linguist and had translated several Bharatanatyam compositions from Tamil to Kannada. He also penned original compositions which I took up in my recitals and I plan to work on his spiritual compositions shortly."

Shubha regularly identifies talent from rural areas and trains them free of charge. She is also creates large choreography sets with up to 600 dancers during Suvarna Karnataka and Dasara celebrations.

Shubha hopes to continue in her new role as the 16th President of the Karnataka Sangeeta Nrithya Academy, where she not only dances and teaches, but also leads the way by organising dance and music events in India and abroad, to take the institution forward.

World Dance Day celebrations and award function is on May 5 at 5.30pm, at Ravindra Kalakshetra. Shubha will present a Kathak performance on May 6 at 6.30pm at the same venue. Entry free. Call 9845698089 for details.

Art in motion Classical dancer Shubha Dhananjay, a scene from one of her productions. SUDHAKARA JAIN & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Helping hands, shining talent

Diya Rose Denny

The AHUM (Art Heart U & Mind) Trust, in collaboration with the Satya Foundation, Jakkur will present a performance of their annual art intensive summer programme, Kalakrida, which loops in children from under-served communities.

Almost a hundred students were taught different art forms such as creative writing, theatre, music, konnakol, painting and movement during the three-week summer programme. These children will present their learnings and experiences at the showcase.

Bharatanatyam dancer and founder of the trust, Anuradha Venkatraman, says, "The children will perform the songs they wrote on as well as a medley of Kannada songs that they learnt at the music class. This will be followed by Layavinyasa, which explores rhythm cycles in konnakol."

"After this, the children will narrate the stories they crafted in their creative writing classes and then, perform a contemporary movement piece titled *Trapped in the Feed*. There will be a Kannada adaptation of the play *The Chalk Circle,* after which the children will exhibit the art works created during their painting classes."

Usually, the Kalakrida programme, which was first curated in 2016, takes in about 120 students during registration. However, Anuradha points out, many of them drop out since they also have contribute to the family income during summer holidays. This year, 95 students studying in government schools in Jakkur completed the programme and will be a part of the event.

"Through this showcase, these underprivileged children are given a freedom of expression which they do not enjoy in their home or school. Since most of the focus of education is on rote learning and STEM education, we forget that art helps in developing non-cognitive skills which are more valuable and necessary to face the world, understand teamwork and even solve problems," she says.

"We step in to fill this gap by bringing art and aiding their emotional growth in a positive way."

AHUM was started in 2015 with the basic idea of creating a sense of community through art in North Bengaluru.

During the camp, the children were asked to choose any two art forms out of the six offered, which are then taught to them every day in two sessions. "From 10 in the morning to noon, movement, painting and creative writing are taught simultaneously in three different spaces. The next session from 1pm to 3pm, focuses on theatre, konnakol and music."

Bright and beautiful Children participating in Kalakrida sessions. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The students were also provided with lunch and transportation back to their homes once the camp ends at 3pm.

Art facilitators and professional artists were hired to take these classes. Anuradha says, "We ensure that our facilitators give these children not just an experience of the art form, but also create a safe space for them to use art to express themselves and as a means of empowerment."

She adds,"Kalakrida has become our most important project and this year, we specifically focussed on the voices of these children through art. We are also considering expanding into a more collective space where these children can talk and express both literally and emotionally on stage, throughout the year and not just for 15 days."

Over the years, the trust has hosted Kalakrida and other events via crowdfunding and the support of other foundations and businesses in the community.

"I invite as many people as possible to come to these performances, see how skilled these children are and encourage their efforts," says Anuradha. "The program is open to all."

On May 4, from 6.30 pm, at the Jakkur PU College. Entry free. For details, call 9886334046

Perfect blend of vocals and flute

Singer Hariharan and Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia will perform live at Phoenix Marketcity in Bengaluru, at the *HSBC Living Legends Hari Se Hari Tak* event.

Hariharan, born into a musical family, trained first under his mother, Alamelu Mani who is also a classical singer. The singer is known for his soul-stirring ghazals and playback singing with chartbusters such as "Uyire Uyire". He sings in Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam and has till date sung more than 500 Tamil songs and nearly 200 Hindi songs.

He later collaborated with musician Leslie Lewis, and the duo called themselves Colonial Cousins. Their partnership resulted in many hits and they became the face of Indian pop.

The singer will perform live with the legendary flautist Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia. Celebrated globally as the bansuri maestro, the artiste is a recipient of the Padma Vibhushan. The 86-year-old is also the artistic director of the World Music Department at the Rotterdam Music Conservatory, Netherlands. He is the founder of the Vrindavan Gurukul in Mumbai and Vrindavan Gurukul in Bhubaneshwar – both of which train students in the guru-shishya tradition.

Chaurasia has collaborated with many Western musicians including John McLaughlin and Ken Lauber, and has composed music for Indian cinema.

On May 4, 7pm onwards, at Phoenic Marketcity. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Meeting of legends Hariharan and Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mob lynching victim made a living picking waste from rail tracks

Raghava M.
MANGALURU

Kerala's Ashraf, 35, the victim of a mob lynching at Kudupu in Mangaluru on April 27, was a rag picker and earned his living by selling plastic bottles which he collected from railway tracks.

An investigation by the Mangaluru police revealed that Ashraf would sleep at the Padil railway station. Every day he walked along the tracks for about 20 km, collect plastic bottles and other dry waste. He would earn about ₹800 per day out of which he would spend around ₹150 for food. On April 27, Ashraf came down from the railway track to the Kudupu playground where a group of people were playing cricket. The group tore his shirt and then hit him on the back, and also kicked him relentlessly. Following the assault, Ashraf moved away and collapsed near Bhatra Kallurti temple where he was found dead.

Following a complaint by Deepak Kumar, a resident of Kulashekara, the Mangaluru Rural police visited the spot, with Scene Of Crime Officers (SOCO). Based on the opinion of SOCOs that the death of Ashraf was natural, the Mangaluru Rural police registered a case of unnatural death.

The post-mortem was done on April 28 at the Government Wenlock Hospital where the forensic experts found that Ashraf's back, hands, and buttocks were completely bruised owing to the assault. As Ashraf wore jeans, bruise marks were not so prominent on the legs.

Following opinion by forensic experts that death was due to mob lynching, the police registered a case under Sections 103(2) (murder by group of five or more), 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 189(2) (unlawful assembly), 190, 191 (1) (rioting), 191(3), 240 (giving false information) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. So far, a total of 20 of the 25 persons, who were suspected to be involved in the mob lynching, have been arrested.

Psychological problem

Ashraf's younger brother Abdul Jabbar, who was among the group of family members who had come to the city from Wayanad to take the body back home, told reporters on Wednesday that Ashraf was living separately in Mangaluru for the last few years. He visited Wayanad to meet his mother and he recently visited during Eid-ul-Fitr.

Mr. Jabbar said his brother had a psychological problem and he had undergone treatment. "Recently I purchased a mobile SIM in my name and had given it to Ashraf for use," Mr. Jabbar said.

After receiving the body from the police, family members brought it to Zeenath Baksh Juma Masjid where rituals were performed on Wednesday. Then they took the body to Kottakkal in Kerala.

Seven devotees killed in wall collapse at A.P. temple

Poor quality wall coupled with rain and gale are said to have led to its collapse; construction was reportedly completed in haste ahead of the annual Chandanotsavam festival; two injured

B. Madhu Gopal
VISAKHAPATNAM

Seven devotees were killed and two others were injured when a wall collapsed on a queue atop the hill at the Sri Varahalakshmi Narasimha Swamy in Simhachalam, Andhra Pradesh, on Wednesday.

The annual Chandanotsavam festival is under way at the temple.

The wall was on a higher ground, while the devotees were in a queue below, along the hill slope.

Early morning rain on Wednesday followed by heavy winds forced devotees standing in queue to rush for cover. The rainwater was steadily flowing down the slope. The wall, located at a stone's throw from the bus terminus, collapsed reportedly due to continuous flow of water from the upper area. It fell on the wire mesh around the queue lines trapping nine devotees.

Rescue operations on at the Sri Varahalakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Simhachalam, Visakhapatnam. SPECIAL ARRANGMENT

The wall, about 15-foot long and around 10-foot high, was built recently under the PRASHAD scheme of the Union government. The work was reportedly completed in haste ahead of the annual festival, which draws thousands of devotees every year. The curing of the concrete wall was allegedly not done properly, according to sources.

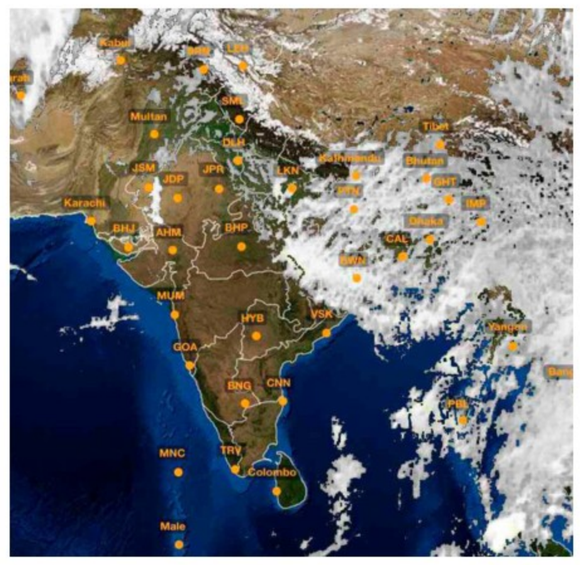
Collector orders probe

Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad ordered officials to conduct a probe on the quality of construction and collect details of the contractor. Rescue workers also said that the quality of the wall was very poor. "Failure to use girders and pillars for the construction, compacted soil foundation and heavy flooding could have destabilised the foundation," sources said.

Personnel from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, Fire Department and the NDRF had a tough time rescuing the injured.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 13.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorms with gusty winds/lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.6	22.8	Kozhikode	—	36.3	27.8
Ahmedabad	—	43.5	25.8	Kurnool	—	39.9	30.4
Aizawl	—	31.3	21.6	Lucknow	—	35.4	24.5
Allahabad	—	37.8	24.0	Madurai	—	38.0	26.3
Bengaluru	—	33.5	22.7	Mangaluru	0.3	33.7	25.0
Bhopal	—	41.6	23.8	Mumbai	—	33.9	26.0
Bhubaneswar	—	33.2	20.1	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	35.8	26.7	New Delhi	—	38.1	25.8
Chennai	—	35.4	28.8	Patna	—	34.2	23.6
Coimbatore	—	36.8	25.6	Port Blair	4	31.2	25.6
Dehradun	—	34.4	20.7	Puducherry	—	35.7	28.0
Gangtok	2	20.3	12.5	Pune	—	42.5	25.8
Goa	—	37.0	28.0	Raipur	20	35.2	18.6
Guwahati	11	30.5	20.9	Ranchi	—	33.5	19.6
Hubballi	—	40.0	22.0	Shillong	0.4	20.0	13.4
Hyderabad	—	39.5	26.9	Shimla	—	27.6	17.8
Imphal	—	26.3	17.1	Srinagar	—	30.9	9.8
Jaipur	—	41.1	26.9	Thiruvananthapuram	0.7	33.5	26.1
Kochi	—	33.4	26.0	Tiruchi	—	37.7	27.4
Kohima	5	20.8	13.9	Vijayawada	—	38.0	26.7
Kolkata	—	31.2	25.0	Visakhapatnam	4	30.0	23.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO 2	NO 2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.21	..39	.16	...169	...132	
Bengaluru	...9	4	.47	50	...127	
Chennai	...8	..13	.49	29	49	
Delhi	.29	..98	.37	...172	...272	
Hyderabad	...7	..37	.32	34	...105	
Kolkata	...6	..65	.26	78	81	
Lucknow	...7	..61	.50	...114	...121	
Mumbai	...8	..31	.16	63	74	
Pune	.42	..10	100	...233	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..28	.22	31	67	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 270 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SC suspends CBI probe against Kerala CM's Principal Secretary in assets case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe ordered by the Kerala High Court against K.M. Abraham, the Chief Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in a disproportionate assets case.

A Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan issued notice to the CBI on a special leave petition filed by Mr. Abraham.

Earlier in April, the Kerala High Court had directed the Central agency to investigate Mr. Abraham, who is also the CEO of the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board.

The order was passed by the High Court on a petition filed by activist Jomon Puthenpurackal, who had challenged an order of the Thiruvananthapuram Vigilance special court dismissing his plea for a Vigilance probe into allegations of disproportionate wealth.

The High Court had justified a CBI probe by observing that Mr. Abraham held a Cabinet rank, and an investigation by the State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau would not instil public confidence.

'Bid to shield official'

The Vigilance, while conducting a preliminary inquiry, had deliberately excluded the acquisition of property of substantial value by Mr. Abraham with the intent to protect him. Hence, a CBI probe was needed, the HC had noted.

Thrissur Pooram festivities kick off

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

The Thrissur Pooram has officially begun with the ceremonial flag hoisting (*Kodiyettam*) marking the start of festivities at eight participating temples, including the main organisers Thiruvambady and Paramekkavu temples.

At the Thiruvambady temple, the flag hoisting took place on Wednesday following special rituals. The *kodimaram* (flagpole) was crafted by the traditional artisans of the Thazhathupuraykkal Aashari family. After a ceremonial bhoomi puja, the pole was installed and adorned with the sacred flag blessed inside the temple. With hundreds of people gathering to witness the *kodiyettam* ceremony, Thiruvambady formally entered the Pooram mode.

Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the work
2S	CE / MTPS - II	Supply of Grinding Roller Tyre for Mill 4 Sets

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites, **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/1818/Tender/2025

Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the work
M.149 / 2025-26	SE / MM - III	Supply Installation Commissioning of 12 Nos New Servers and SAN Storage

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit the websites, **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/1824/Tender/2025

Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the work
03/2025-26	SE / C / PCC	Manufacturing and supply of 24000 Nos of 9.0m 300 Kg WL PSC poles at Poothamedu PSC yard

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit the websites, **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/1816/Tender/2025

Submit report on Hubbali rape-murder, suspect's death: NHRC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued notice to the Karnataka government in a case of abduction, rape and murder of a five-year-old girl and the death of the arrested accused in a "police encounter" in Hubballi.

It was on April 13 that the girl's body was found in the bathroom of a house. The police said the child was abducted by a 35-year-old man, when her mother, a domestic help, was away at work. Angry neighbours of the girl then protested outside the local police station, demanding the arrest of the accused.

The suspect, a migrant worker from Bihar, was arrested by the police within hours of the incident. He was being taken for questioning when he allegedly tried to attack the police personnel, who fired at him, leading to his death.

THE HINDU CARE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

THE HINDU GROUP

THIS LABOUR DAY 7.8 MILLION WORKERS SHOULD BE LAID OFF.

In a country with 35.6 million unemployed adults, there are 7.8 million children working. Let the adults do the work and let the children go to school.

Scan here to report child labour.

#TerminateChildLabour

THE HINDU

Labour Day | 1 May 2025

Source: Projections from a 2023 report by the British Council of India.

Secret threats

The state must not stifle democratic dissent in the name of national security

State surveillance must be subject to systemic checks and supervision and not mirror the nefarious activities of the dark underworld. As a Supreme Court of India Bench pointed out, the question is not whether the state can use spyware, but who could be its legitimate targets. The Bench, during a hearing on the alleged surveillance of politicians, judges, religious leaders, civil servants and journalists by some state entity, was evidently seeking to curtail arbitrary use of the powers and tools of surveillance. The government has neither confirmed nor denied that it uses Pegasus, an Israel-made military grade spyware that is sold only to state agencies, which was used to target a wide range of people. The matter reached the Court after global revelations about the existence and the use of this tool, and it appointed a technical committee whose investigation was constrained by a lack of cooperation from alleged targets and the government. Several high-profile users of the iPhone, the primary target of Pegasus, continued to get security alerts from the manufacturer that they were targets of suspected state surveillance, even as the matter was before the judiciary. States the world over have used extra-legal measures to snoop on targets that tried to firewall their communication using rapidly evolving technologies. Terrorists and other non-state actors, and criminals are using encryption and other advanced technologies to evade detection as they plot to harm the wider society. Without adequate legal and technological wherewithal, the state would be ineffective in dealing with emerging national security threats. In this context, and particularly against the backdrop of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, the Court has framed a relevant question.

The tendency of the government to arbitrarily invoke national security in defence of a brazen denial of due process and transparency in law enforcement has been called out by the Court in the past. There is also the disturbing trend of government actors routinely labelling political opponents as anti-nationals. If the state is to claim more surveillance powers, corresponding and robust guardrails must also be engineered. National security cannot be an excuse for executive arbitrariness and a violation of individual rights and dignity. Protocols that ensure that clearly defined standards and steps are followed in surveillance must be established. Once the security concerns are overcome, and within appropriate timelines, these processes should be subject to oversight by other branches of government and the public at large. At any rate, no state agency can have the authority to interfere in the democratic politics of the country, or stifle dissenting voices and activism. While trying to tackle an uncertain security environment, the compass of India's constitutional democracy must stay firm.

Leaky pipeline

India must ensure it retains the services of committed scientists

A recent report analysing public funded research and development institutions in India had some pointers that should raise an alarm. In several of the 244 institutions studied, there was a decrease in the number of permanent, scientific staff in 2022-23 compared to the previous year. There were also fewer organisations in 2022-23 compared to the previous year that reported hiring permanent staff. The institutes together had 19,625 contractual staff and 12,042 permanent staff in 2022-23. Not surprisingly, the slowdown in hiring was made up by hiring scientific research personnel on short-term contracts. These contractual staff were a 14% rise over 2021-22. The very fact that contractual workers exceed permanent staff in scientific institutions is a matter of concern. This data emerges from a study commissioned by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and the institutions studied, do not include the 'strategic sectors', such as defence, atomic energy and space which consume the lion's share of India's research and development expenditure. As a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science, Technology and Environment tabled in Parliament last month observed, nearly three in five of the posts sanctioned for scientific personnel at one of India's top institutes for basic science research, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), are unfilled. The TIFR is primarily funded by the Department of Atomic Energy. Further, the parliamentary report found that, on average, one in four of sanctioned posts at the key atomic energy research institutions and nuclear power plants was vacant. Clearly the rot runs deep.

On the one hand, the government has announced missions to develop quantum computers and develop foundational artificial intelligence models. It has also declared its intent to align research and development towards industry-specific research. However none of this will bear fruit without scientists, particularly young researchers who are engaged full-time, having long careers at institutions doing cutting-edge research. The government had once set up institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) and introduced four-year undergraduate programmes in basic science, precisely because the incentives then were not strong enough to retain potential scientists. India needs to ensure that the conditions for research, such as respectable salaries, funds and equipment to do good research, are made available more widely.

From a rules-based world to shambolic disorder

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

Even prior to the Trump interlude in the United States, there were enough signs that the world was witnessing uncertainty across many sectors. This was a heralding of problematic conditions in many areas of the globe, and policymakers, strategists and business leaders had begun to prepare for more difficult times ahead. Some did, however, hew to the view that new analytical tools and strategic methodologies which were in use would help mitigate the levels of uncertainty in the course of time.

Leader-led disruption

Notwithstanding this, the majority adhered to the view that the recent shifts in global hegemonies, the spate of disruptive technologies and also prevailing geopolitical tensions were certain to herald more disruption, accompanied by an increase in geopolitical tensions and economic tsunamis. The general consensus, hence, is that given the influence wielded by leaders such as Xi Jinping of China, Vladimir Putin of Russia, and Donald Trump in the U.S. – not excluding the role of leaders such as Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy, intent on disrupting the existing order – there is little hope of change for the better.

Few parallels, perhaps, exist for this state of affairs, at least in the recent period. Many also hew to the view that this is the beginning of a new phenomenon in the history of the world – one which has the potential to not only disrupt but also overturn the existing order. Such a situation, many also believe, would be very different from what had existed since the early 21st century, which was marked by considerable turbulence.

The U.S., which since 1945, had trumpeted the view that it is the fountainhead of democracy, is itself beginning to witness disruption of a kind that it has not seen in recent centuries. One consequence of this has been an escalation in tensions between the U.S. and several other countries. Most important, however, is that the situation is leading to what some experts estimate to be a 'cauldron of unexpected consequences'.

Today, the U.S. appears like a nation divided. Seen as a pillar of democratic stability, it is currently grappling with profound internal divisions. This. in turn, has had an adverse impact on its relations with countries across the globe. One reason for this is, no doubt, Mr. Trump's new tariff war – which demonstrates a profoundly transactional approach – the impact of which has been to turn the world upside down. This is having a highly unsettling effect on global trade. Already leading economists assess that the impact of tariffs has led to sharp decline in the growth potential of the U.S., and brought down its GDP.

Few parallels exist for the state of affairs, with some leaders intent on disrupting the existing world order

The U.S. President also seems not unwilling to shoot himself in the foot. Trumponomics now involves inflicting crippling wounds on world famous educational institutions such as Harvard and Columbia. It has targeted foreign students (who reportedly contribute over $40 billion to the U.S. economy, and sustain over 4,00,000 American jobs). This again is likely to adversely impact the future of the U.S., and, incidentally, its intrinsic capabilities.

In Europe and West Asia

In the meantime, with Mr. Trump's ascendancy, Europe finds itself in a serious dilemma. Embroiled in a conflict with Russia over Ukraine for the past three years (which shows no signs of ending, despite recent peace efforts initiated by Mr. Trump), what Europe is now staring at is pronounced uncertainty about its future and that of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The European Union is today a pale shadow of what it appeared to be only a few months back – Mr. Trump's recent diatribes about Europe's inability to defend itself is further adding to concerns about its future.

The situation in West Asia seems even bleaker. Israel's continuing offensive in the Gaza sector and beyond is amounting to a virtual pogrom (and with the U.S. and the West refusing to restrain Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu), the situation in the region is possibly the worst ever in recent decades. Further, Israel appears intent on redrawing the geography and the destiny of the region, and is actively seeking to achieve a larger geographical presence for itself, including seeking territories that had never previously been Israeli.

Elsewhere in West Asia, the situation appears to be only worsening. Even as Israel appears impervious to existing ceasefire agreements and is looking further afield to set up permanent positions in Syria, the administration there under its new leader, Ahmed al-Shara, appears to be on the brink of collapse, having disbanded the army and security services, purged the civil services of all Alawite elements, and abolished all political parties, thus, making it easier for Israel to establish its stranglehold over the region. Old feuds such as those between Ethiopia and Eritrea have meanwhile reemerged across North Africa. Türkiye is in turmoil with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan having created a tempest by arresting his principal political opponent before the elections. More problematic is that there are ominous signs that Israel, on the pretext that Iran is about to go nuclear, is contemplating a strike to destroy Iran's nuclear capabilities.

Meanwhile, the past few months have seen Islamic State (IS) affiliates moving out of the West Asian region, carrying out a series of attacks in Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, pockets in North Africa and extending activities into Afghanistan. The revival of the IS is something that the world needs to worry about, as it could mark the revival of terrorist activities across many parts of the globe.

Events in Asia

Pronounced indifference, meantime, by the world to events in parts of Asia have masked the reality of what is taking place in these regions. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan are today facing a great deal of internal turmoil and tensions, and alongside this, have also come within the crosshairs of terrorist groups such as the IS and its affiliates. A fresh wave of terror attacks, not only within both these countries, but further afield, is also beginning to be seen. While some are a leftover from the past, such as al-Qaeda and the IS, many are being sponsored by new affiliates. All this is providing a beachhead for a new brand of terrorists. Quite a few new terror attacks have, hence, occurred across the region. The latest was an attack on tourists in Pahalgam, in Kashmir on April 22, in which 26 people were killed. While regions in Asia, to the north and west of India, seem caught up in a fresh wave of violence, the situation elsewhere in the region is again far from happy. Countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal situated to India's east, currently face internal turmoil of different kinds.

Further to India's east, the ubiquitous China-Taiwan problem remains unresolved, though it has not yet to come to the boil. China appears more intent at present on finding solutions for its economic woes, and on how best to outflank Mr. Trump in his current tariff offensive. Meanwhile, Southeast Asia is seeing fresh signs of a Chinese economic and peace offensive. As the U.S. takes a back seat in regard to political manoeuvrings in Asia, what is evident is that China is exploiting this situation to its benefit. India may have reason to think that the recent accord/adjustments between India and China (at the border in Ladakh) marks a return to peaceful coexistence, but the reality would seem to be otherwise. China-India rivalry for the heart of Asia, hence, remains more intense than ever. Many other countries in the region, meantime, appear to be 'tilting' towards China. China is taking full advantage of this, and is intent on demonstrating its naval strength in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, going well beyond its 'nine-dash-line' by venturing into the South Pacific. It has also increased its presence and the numbers of its submarines in the Indian Ocean region. The Asian region, hence, remains wide open, needing India to be on its guard against any and all eventualities.

India's shame — the trap of bonded labour

Rejimon Kuttappan

is a forced labour investigator and the author of 'Undocumented' (2021)

On May 1, as the world commemorates International Labour Day to honour the dignity of work and workers' rights, the stories of millions in India trapped in bonded labour cast a dark shadow.

In a quiet corner of Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh, Mukesh Adivasi, 35, lies on a weathered charpoy, his once-robust frame now frail, his spirit scarred by a traumatic past. In 2023, enticed by promises of work in Indore, Mukesh and his family were trafficked 1,400 kilometres to Karnataka, trapped as bonded labourers. Brutal violence on a sugarcane farm left him with a painful limp and profound exhaustion. "I blame my greed," Mukesh mourns, recalling the ₹500 advance that he got and which ignited hope. Crammed into trucks, they endured a gruelling journey, only to face relentless toil – between 14 hours to 16 hours of work every day.

When Mukesh demanded payment, armed guards savagely beat him, which shattered his right leg. A failed escape attempt brought further cruelty. After weeks of torment, the police rescued Mukesh and others, but his physical and emotional scars remain.

In Puttur, Andhra Pradesh, K. Thenmozhi's childhood dreams of a bright future collapsed at the age of 13. Financial hardship drove her family to a brick kiln in Bengaluru, where an advance of ₹2,000 bound them in servitude. Excruciating work that stretched over 12 to 14 hours under the scorching sun replaced school. The kiln owner's brutality – beatings, verbal abuse and confinement – shattered their spirit. "I knew we were trapped," Thenmozhi recalls. A social worker's visit provoked the owner's fury, but his subsequent flight offered them escape. Fleeing barefoot, Thenmozhi's family left on a train, and reached their village.

The long wait for justice and freedom

The harrowing experiences of survivors such as Mukesh Adivasi and K. Thenmozhi, are among the lakhs of Indians ensnared in bonded labour, exposing the brutality of exploitation and underscoring the urgent need for systemic reforms to secure justice and freedom for all workers.

India's economy thrives on its most vulnerable, as bonded and forced labour

Bonded labour emerges from a web of interconnected factors. Immediate triggers, such as medical emergencies, religious ceremonies, dowries, food shortages, or the sudden loss of a job or a breadwinner, may force an impoverished worker to seek a loan or advance from an employer or labour agent. However, deeper systemic issues amplify this vulnerability: discrimination and social exclusion based on religion, ethnicity, or caste; widespread illiteracy and a lack of access to information; employer monopolies over local financial and labour markets; and the dominance of social elites. These elements transform a simple economic transaction between lender and borrower into a mechanism of social control and exploitation.

Policy and plan

India had abolished bonded labour in 1975. In 2016, the then Union Labour Minister, Bandaru Dattatreya, informed Parliament about the government's plan to release and rehabilitate 1.84 crore bonded labourers across the country as part of a 15-year vision extending until 2030.

Interestingly, in December 2021, when parliamentarian Mohammed Jawed inquired about this target in Parliament, the government stated that 12,760 bonded labourers had been rescued and rehabilitated between 2016 and 2021.

The Minister of State for Labour and Employment revealed a harsh truth: of India's estimated 1.84 crore bonded labourers, only 12,760 have been rescued and rehabilitated, leaving approximately 1.71 crore still trapped. To meet the 2030 target of eradicating bonded labour, around 11 lakh individuals would need to have been rescued annually since 2021. Given that only 12,000 bonded labourers were rescued between 2016 and 2021, expecting lakhs to be freed annually is overly optimistic.

In addition to bonded labour, crores of unorganised Indian workers, particularly migrants, endure forced labour in India, which closely resembles bonded labour. According to a National Sample Survey Organization of India report, the country's total employment across the organised and unorganised sectors was approximately 47 crore. Of this, only 8 crore workers were in the organised sector, while the remaining 39 crore were in the unorganised sector.

The International Labour Organisation's India Employment Report 2024 also states that low-quality jobs in the informal sector and informal employment are the dominant forms of work in India.

The ground reality

Unfortunately, unorganised workers, predominantly migrants in India's informal sector, lack unionisation, depriving them of collective bargaining power. Without unionisation, unorganised workers face exploitative conditions, lack formal contracts, and risk arbitrary dismissal. In the 1940s, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar championed labour rights, mandating trade union recognition and collective bargaining, including the right to strike. However, the Labour Codes of 2019-20 have undermined Ambedkar's legacy, eroding workers' rights and prioritising profit over people, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

Since early 2022, investigations by this writer into forced labour across Indian industries have exposed a shameful reality: Indian industries thrive on the exploitation of forced labour, a blatant betrayal of India's workers. Interviews with hundreds of workers – mostly migrants forced from their villages by climate change, crippling poverty, and a lack of job opportunities – lay bare a system rigged against them. These workers lack stable wages, facing meagre pay, precarious conditions, and the constant threat of dismissal. This exploitation, a deliberate assault on their dignity, is perpetuated by a system prioritising profit over people, ignoring modern-day slavery. India's economy shamefully thrives on bonded and forced labour, profiting from its most vulnerable.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Indus issue

It is amusing to hear the line by some in the media that revoking the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) would mean that Pakistan will not get a single drop of water. Practically speaking, implementing such a move would take several years. From April to September, the Indus has abundant water, making any immediate action impossible. Another crucial issue is China. Eager to harm India, it might hasten to build a dam on the Brahmaputra. India's 'dam construction' on the Indus would then become Beijing's justification. If the Brahmaputra's flow is impeded, Assam's situation would be dire.

Water-sharing treaties between two nations are based on international norms. Unilaterally revoking a UN-brokered agreement would harm India's diplomatic relations. This practical consideration is why India has not withdrawn from the IWT despite three wars.

Those at the helm of affairs know that this "venting frustration on the weaker one" tactic is just a smokescreen to deceive the public. An announcement is enough and the media will take it from there. The Indus is not just a water body. It is a living heritage sustaining millions in India, Pakistan, and Tibet. The Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej are its tributaries, each one significant.

Padmanabha Suryanarayana,
Kochi, Kerala

Rising star

Vaibhav Suryavanshi has taken IPL 2025 by storm ('Sport' page, April 30). Taking on an experienced bowling attack, he has made it clear that he is an example of exceptional talent. Although there are plenty of cautionary tales about early success, it would be helpful for him to 'put his head down'.

Thomas Palocaren
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The impact of suspending a water treaty

In a strong measure against Pakistan, after terrorists from The Resistance Front killed 26 tourists in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, India's Cabinet Committee on Security decided that "the Indus Waters Treaty [IWT] of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect, until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism". This implicitly means an end to the water treaty, signed in 1960. There is no exit clause and provision in the IWT for unilateral abrogation. Article XII (4) of the IWT states that the treaty "shall continue in force until terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two governments".

Many Indian analysts often argue that the provisions under Articles 60 and 62 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT) can be used to revoke the treaty. India is not a party to the VCLT; Pakistan has signed but not ratified it. Invoking provisions under Article 62 of the VCLT on the IWT is convenient, but tough to argue. Suspending the IWT may also internationalise the water matter between the two hostile countries. Aqeel Malik, the Minister of State for Law and Justice in Pakistan, told Reuters that there are three different legal options, including raising the issue at the World Bank, taking action at the Permanent Court of Arbitration or at the International Court of Justice in the Hague alleging that India has violated the 1969 VCLT, or raising the issue at the UN Security Council.

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Stopping the flow of water

India can now stop sharing water flow data with Pakistan, flush reservoirs, and there will be no hydro project design or operation-related restrictions on India. It can also hold water during the dry period and release it during the high monsoon, causing drought and floods in Pakistan. The western rivers – Indus, Jhelum and Chenab – are considered the backbone for Pakistan's agriculture, domestic consumption, and hydroelectricity production.

An impact on the flow of water to Pakistan may further intensify inter-provincial water disputes in the country. Punjab and Sindh have a long history of water fights. Currently, they are arguing over a plan to construct six canals, particularly the Cholistan Canal, to irrigate the deserted Cholistan region in Punjab. Amid protests in Sindh, the federal government of Pakistan decided to halt the contentious canal projects.

To materialise its political decision on the IWT, India requires major infrastructure projects. Under the IWT, India is permitted to store up to 3.60 million acre-feet (MAF) of water, develop 1.34 million acres of irrigation land in J&K and Ladakh, and construct run-of-the-river dams on the western rivers. However, India has a storage capacity of only around 1 MAF and has developed irrigation for about 0.642 million acres. On the eastern rivers – Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi – India utilises more than 90% of its 33 MAF allocated waters, supported by major projects such as the Bhakra, Pong, and Ranjit Sagar dam.

India's hydroelectric projects on the western rivers, such as the Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project, Ratle Dam, Salal Dam, Nimoo Bazgo, and Baglihar Dam, aim to harness the water resources of the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers to generate electricity, utilising India's allocated share of water under the IWT. These projects have varying storage capacities, with Kishanganga at 18.35 million cubic meters, Ratle Dam at 78.71 million cubic meters, Salal Dam at 285 million cubic meters, and Baglihar Dam at 475 million cubic meters. Upcoming and planned projects such as the Ratle Dam, Kiru Dam, and Pakal Dul Dam will further tap into the Chenab River and its tributaries. However, India's ability to capture and utilise the water flowing into Pakistan is limited by the capacity of these projects. India lacks massive storage infrastructure to hold back large volumes of water during high-flow periods.

While India has launched short, medium-term, and long-term plans to maximise its water share and reduce flows into Pakistan, most western river projects remain run-of-the-river with minimal storage. Given the challenging Himalayan terrain and bureaucratic delays, building the required infrastructure to harness the treaty entitlements could take a decade or longer.

Conclusion

India may justify its position on suspending the IWT. However, if its steps on the IWT do not politically and diplomatically satisfy other neighbouring countries, the suspension may impact New Delhi's relations with them. For instance, the upper riparian to many Indian rivers, China, may cite the suspension of the IWT in its favour to not renew Memorandum of Understanding on water data sharing or sharing information of hydrostructures on the rivers flowing into India from Tibet. India's MoU on data sharing with China on the Sutlej and Brahmaputra rivers have expired and, as India's Ministry of Water Resources website says, is under the process of renewal. Notably, during the Doklam crisis in 2017, China did not share hydro data with India, but shared it with Bangladesh. Second, as India and Bangladesh have agreed to renew the Ganga Water Treaty, set to expire in 2026, India's decision on the IWT may cast a shadow over it. Currently, India and Bangladesh do not share very close relations. India's water decisions may even prompt a section of the Nepali population to caution the government on water related and other agreements with New Delhi. A few commentators from Sri Lanka too are talking about "treading" carefully while signing agreements with India.

India may justify its position on suspending the Indus Water Treaty. But this could impact Delhi's relations with neighbouring countries

Breathing life into Vembanad lake

Rejuvenating the lake is critical for Kerala, but it is easier said than done

STATE OF PLAY

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Vembanad, the longest lake in India and the largest in Kerala, is gasping for breath. The 96.5 km-long water body spans the districts of Alappuzha, Kottayam, and Ernakulam and forms part of the Vembanad-Kol wetland system, a Ramsar site. Six major rivers drain into the lake, which accounts for around 30% of the State's total surface water resource.

Over the past century, the lake has shrunk significantly due to human-induced interventions, land reclamation, and natural sedimentation, according to experts. Though vital to the region's ecology and agriculture, it faces severe threats from pollution, eutrophication, unsustainable agricultural practices, and invasive weed proliferation.

A few years ago, a study by the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies revealed alarming levels of plastic waste, silt, and other sediments in the lake. According to a recent expert committee report prepared as part of the Vembanad Lake Rejuvenation Project, an ambitious joint effort of the Alappuzha district administration and the Local Self Government Department, the lake's surface area has shrunk mainly due to land encroachment. Citing previous studies, the report notes that the surface area of the lake diminished by 27% between 1917 and 1990. The drastic reduction in not only area, but also depth, has significantly reduced the lake's floodwater retention capacity and impaired its critical ecosystem services, including water purification, biodiversity support, and sediment transport. The unchecked proliferation of water hyacinths has further worsened the situation, contributing to dangerously high levels of chemical oxygen demand and biological oxygen demand. As a result, the fish catch has declined by about 66% over the last three decades.

The efforts to rejuvenate the lake are being spearheaded by Alappuzha District Collector Alex Varghese. The initiative draws "inspiration from the Namami Gange Programme". It gained momentum on October 28, 2024 when a workshop was held focusing on addressing the challenges of restoring the water body. Eight subcommittees – agriculture, fisheries, water resources, tourism, biodiversity, environment and sanitation, disaster management and climate change, and revenue – were constituted. A ₹188.25 crore comprehensive five-year plan was formulated and recently submitted to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The estimate may be revised based on the detailed study on water resources and irrigation projects being conducted by the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management.

The short-term goals include the removal of plastic waste, construction of bio-shields to protect farmlands, fish ranching, weed eradication, and the construction of 31 bio bunds, each 1 km long in 31 grama panchayats. The long-term targets include dredging the lake bed to increase its water-holding capacity, promoting organic farming to prevent pollution from pesticides and chemicals, conserving the flora and fauna, establishing sewage and faecal sludge treatment plants in flood-prone Kuttanad, manufacturing value-added products from water hyacinth, and boosting tourism and fish yield.

While the report is under the State government's consideration, 28.72 tonnes of plastic waste and a greater quantity of water hyacinth were removed from the lake in recent mega cleaning drives conducted under the aegis of the Alappuzha district administration.

Rejuvenating the lake is critical for enhancing the region's resilience to climate change impacts such as erratic rainfall, sea-level rise, and intensified flooding events. However, it is easier said than done. For instance, houseboats are among the top sources of pollution in the lake. While the report calls for enacting strict laws against unauthorised vessels, previous efforts to rein in illegal houseboat operations have been largely ineffective. Another significant hurdle is land encroachment. The expert committee report notes that reclaiming encroached areas "necessitates strong political support and decisive action." Since Kuttanad is part of the Vembanad wetland ecosystem, the lake's restoration should be linked to the revival of the entire Kuttanad region.

Coordinated collaboration among various stakeholders, including local communities, district administrations, and different levels of governance, will be key to overcoming these complex challenges and will require support from the Union and State governments.

J&K's economy and tourism in peril after Pahalgam massacre

The attack comes amid a tourism boom and slight gains in the Union Territory's own revenue generation

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The targeted killings of tourists in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir took place at a time when the region was witnessing a tourism boom. The number of visitors was at a 15-year high and the Union Territory (UT)'s own revenue generation had started showing signs of improvement. The home States of the victims reflected the diversity of tourists that the Valley had began attracting. Now, with several key destinations in Kashmir deemed unsafe by the government, over 80% of upcoming bookings have been cancelled. Amid escalating tensions at the border, the tourism sector is bracing itself for a bleak year.

Though attacks on tourists are rare, civilians in the Valley have increasingly become targets in recent years. In 2024, the share of civilians in militancy-related deaths in J&K was the highest in nearly two decades. If the latest killings are included, this year marks the highest share of civilians killed (data till April 30). Notably, when districts are ranked according to civilian deaths, Anantnag – home to Pahalgam, the site of the latest attack – ranks among the worst-affected in many years.

Chart 1 shows the number of tourist arrivals to the Valley. The number of tourists began rising in 2010 and continued to grow until 2012. When juxtaposed with data on terrorism incidents, the trend aligns with the period between 2011 and 2015 – years marked by fewer terrorism-related incidents in the Valley. Thereafter, tourist numbers gradually declined. They crashed in 2018 and 2019 before coming to a standstill in the following years due to the pandemic. However, the number of tourists surged again in 2023 and 2024. In fact, 3.5 million tourists visited the Kashmir Valley in 2024 – 1.6 times more than the previous peak recorded in 2012.

It was not just tourism that recovered. The UT's ability to raise its own tax and non-tax revenue also improved in recent years. **Chart 2** depicts the changing composition of J&K's total receipts over time.

In 2024-25, over 46% of the UT's revenue was budgeted to come from Central grants and another 10% from centrally sponsored schemes, underscoring the UT's heavy dependence on the Centre. Borrowings were expected to account for an additional 17% of the UT's revenue.

Only 8% of the total revenue came from non-tax sources; 18% was from the State's own taxes. As a trend, this was a notable improvement – the 8% from non-tax revenue was strong compared to many previous years and the 18% from State taxes was the highest in over a decade. In the wake of the recent attack, not just the tourism industry, but also the UT's ability to generate own revenues will likely suffer in the foreseeable future.

Chart 3 shows the year-wise share of civilians among those killed in militancy-related incidents in J&K between 2000 and 2025 (up to April 30). In 2024, civilians accounted for 24% of such deaths – the highest proportion since 2005. In 2024, civilians were deliberately targeted by terrorists. Notably, in 2023 and 2024, there was a rise in targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities in the Valley. In 2025, an overwhelming 56% of militancy-related deaths, including victims of the latest attack, have been civilians.

Chart 4 shows the year-wise share of Anantnag in the UT's total civilian deaths in militancy-related incidents. Anantnag recorded over 10% of the UT's civilian deaths in such incidents, in seven out of the last 10 years. Baramulla, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, and Srinagar have also been consistently hotspots for civilian deaths in the past.

Trouble in paradise

The data were sourced from Jammu & Kashmir's annual Economic Survey, the Jammu & Kashmir's Budget documents, and the South Asian Terrorism Portal

Chart 1: The chart shows the number of tourist arrivals to the Kashmir Valley from 2008 to 2024

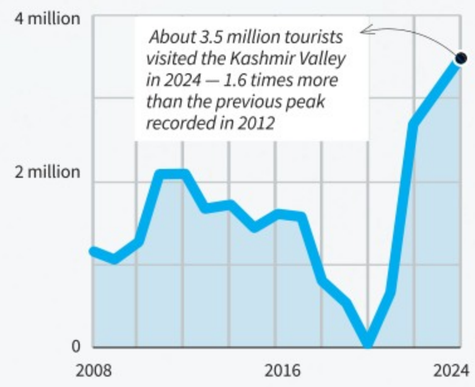


Chart 2: The chart depicts the changing composition of J&K's total revenue receipts over time (in %)

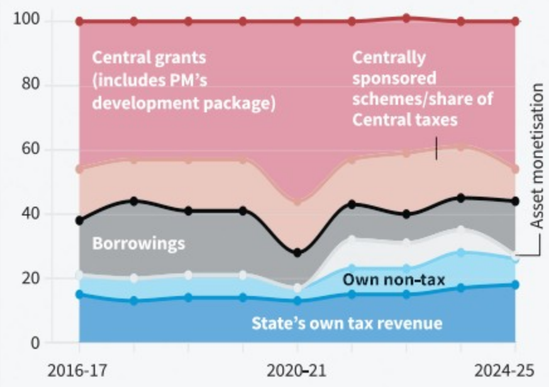


Chart 3: The chart shows the year-wise share of civilians among those killed in militancy-related incidents in J&K

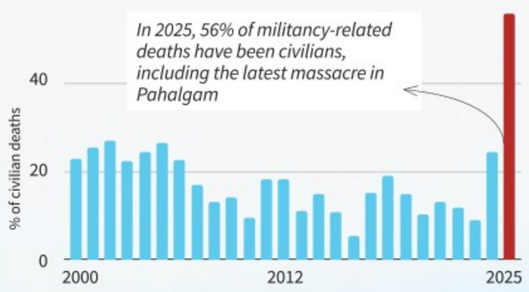
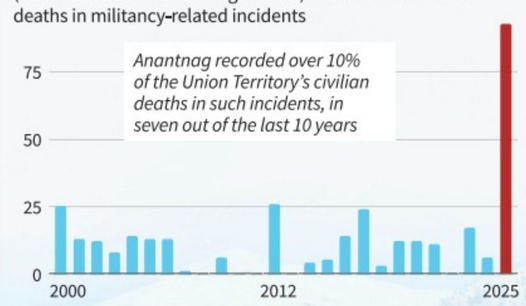


Chart 4: The chart shows the year-wise share of Anantnag (district under which Pahalgam falls) in the UT's total civilian deaths in militancy-related incidents



A week after the attack in Pahalgam, tourists enjoy a horse ride at a ski resort in Gulmarg, north of Srinagar on April 30. IMRAN NISSAR

With inputs from Anika K, Raida N.M. and R.P. Josmani Joan who are interning with the data team

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 1, 1975

War ends in Vietnam

Saigon, April 30: South Vietnam surrendered unconditionally to the communists to-day, ending generations of war against the Japanese, French and Americans and among Vietnamese themselves.

One street scene perhaps epitomised Saigon's abject fall to-day – tank of the National Liberation Front smashed through the main gates of the presidential palace disregarding the attempts of an unarmed South Vietnamese soldier trying to open them first.

Minutes later, the flag of the Provisional Revolutionary Government – red and white with a gold star – was waving from the palace.

The surrender was announced by President Duong Van "Big" Minh, in office for only two days, who urged his troops to stop fighting and appealed to the PRG to avoid bloodshed.

The collapse came only hours after the Americans completed their disorderly pullout.

The PRG, in a broadcast, said, "We, the representatives of the liberation forces of Saigon, formally proclaim that Saigon has been totally liberated. We accept the unconditional surrender of the President of the former Government."

It also called upon all Government employees to return to work and on students and other youths to participate in a demonstration at a place to be announced later.

In his broadcast over Saigon Radio, Gen. Minh said, "We are here waiting for the Provincial Revolutionary Government to hand over the authority in order to stop useless bloodshed."

The Republic of Vietnam policy is the policy of peace and reconciliation, aimed at saving the blood of our people. I ask all servicemen to stop firing and stay where you are. I also demand that the soldiers of the Provincial Revolutionary Government stop firing and stay in place."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 1, 1925

Gandhiji on personal expenses

Ahmedabad, April 30: Mr. Gandhi answers in to-day's Young India, the correspondent who asks him if he takes anything from the All-India Congress Committee or the Gujarat Congress Committee, for his living and touring expenses. Mr. Gandhi says: "I draw nothing from the All-India Congress Committee or the Gujarat Committee but friends fund my travelling expenses including food and clothing."

From Page One

Cabinet nod to include caste count in Census

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting on Thursday, Mr. Vaishnaw said: "Congress governments have always opposed caste census. Caste was not included in all the census operations conducted since Independence. In 2010, then Prime Minister late Manmohan Singh ji had assured the Lok Sabha that the matter of caste census should be considered in the Cabinet. A Group of Ministers was formed to consider this subject. Most of the political parties had recommended caste census. Despite this, the Congress government decided to conduct merely a survey of caste instead of a caste census. That survey is known as the SECC."

The official quoted earlier added that the SECC showed more than 46 lakh different caste names, whereas the total number of castes counted during the 1931 Census was 4,147.

"The SECC threw up lakhs of caste names as it was kept open-ended. Respondents were asked to name their castes. For example, people wrote Gupta, Agarwal, etc. for Baniya caste, which increased the numbers exponentially. This time, a code directory will likely be provided which will include approved names," the official explained.

According to the latest government data, there are nearly 2,650 communities in the OBC group, 1,170 in the SC category, and 890 in the ST list in the Central list. The State governments maintain their own list of OBC groups.

U.S. urges India and Pakistan to 'de-escalate'

India's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Mr. Rubio "is encouraging other national leaders and Foreign Ministers to reach out to the countries on this issue", the State Department spokesperson said. "Obviously, we're also monitoring the developments across the board in that region, and we are in touch with the governments of India and Pakistanat multiple levels. We are encouraging all parties to work together for a responsible solution. The world is watching this," she added.

Responding to a question on Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's comments that Pakistan has "been doing this dirty work for United States", Ms. Bruce said "the only thing I'm really prepared to discuss here is the fact that the Secretary of State is going to be speaking with the Foreign Ministers of both countries."

"So it is – again, as I've noted, every day action is being taken, in this case the Secretary speaking directly to his counterparts in India and Pakistan, and well – we expect certainly the impact he's usually had with the individuals he's spoken with and certainly with President Donald Trump's leadership, India and Pakistan having those conversations," Ms. Bruce said.

(With inputs from Reuters, AFP)

14 killed as fire rips through Kolkata hotel

Witnesses described chilling scenes of horror as the fire spread through the hotel located on Mohan Barman Street. Trapped victims kept asking for help from the windows of the hotel, while many tried to jump from the balcony to escape the leaping flames. Manoj Paswan, who jumped from the building, was taken to the Medical College Hospital, where he was declared dead.

Kolkata Municipal Corporation Mayor Firhad Hakim and Industry Minister Shashi Panja visited the spot and took stock of the rescue operations on Tuesday night.

"Till forensic examination is conducted we will not know the real cause of the fire," Mr. Hakim told mediapersons.

Digital access a part of fundamental right: SC

The Bench also issued 20 directions to the government to improve the KYC processes, to make them more accessible.

Inaccessible KYC processes

The judgment was based on a petition filed by a group of acid attack survivors led by Pragya Prasun and others, and a separate plea by Amar Jain, who is visually challenged. They raised concerns about how disabled people, including acid attack victims, find it nearly impossible to successfully complete the digital KYC processes, which include visual tasks.

The top court said that the unfriendly digital atmosphere has managed to further cripple these sections of the population rather than returning them to mainstream society.

Inclusivity and equity needed

Invoking the 'principle of substantive equality', the Supreme Court held that digital transformation must be both inclusive and equitable. "PwD encounter unique barriers in accessing online services due to a lack of accessible websites, applications and assisted technology," the judgment said. Similarly, rural Indians face poor connectivity, and scarce content in regional languages, which effectively deny them meaningful access to e-governance and welfare measures.

Ex-RAW chief appointed head of reconstituted NSAB

Amid tensions with Pakistan after terror attack, govt reorganises National Security Advisory Board with Alok Joshi made Chairman and seven new members inducted into the 16-member body

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The government has reorganised the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) with Alok Joshi, former Chief of the Research and Analysis Wing, India's external intelligence agency, appointed its Chairman and the induction of seven new members.

The move undertaken in the past few days comes amid the ongoing tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

Hawk eye: Security forces during the search operation in Pahalgam following the terror attack that left 26 people dead. IMRAN NISSAR

PM chairs CCS meeting

In another development, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi met on Wednesday, a day after Mr. Modi chaired a meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and the three service chiefs.

Expressing complete faith and confidence in the professional abilities of the armed forces, Mr. Modi, in that meeting, gave "complete operational freedom" to the forces to decide on the mode, targets, and timing of the Indian response.

The new members of the Board include former Ambassador to Russia D. B. Venkatesh Varma, a non-proliferation expert; former Southern Army Commander Lt. Gen. A.K. Singh; former Western Air Commander Air Marshal P. M. Sinha; Rear Admiral Monty Khanna; and former IPS officers Rajiv Ranjan Verma, Manmohan Singh and A.B. Mathur. This effectively sees half of the 16-member Board re constituted.

Mr. Joshi was an IPS officer of the Haryana cadre of the 1976 batch and had served in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and was appointed RAW chief in 2012. Mr. Mathur had also served in the RAW while Mr. Singh had served in the IB.

"The reconstitution is a standard practice of bringing in new members once the tenure is complete. Not all members of the Board are changed at the same time to ensure continuity," an official with knowledge of the matter said.

The principal function of the NSAB is to undertake long-term analysis and provide perspectives on national security issues to the National Security Council (NSC) and to recommend measures/solutions and policy options on the issues referred to it by the National Security Council, as per a written reply given by the government in Parliament.

The NSAB was constituted in December 1998, as an advisory body of eminent persons outside the government to render advice on national security issues referred to it by the NSC. It draws people of diverse domains including industry, media and civil society, among others.

The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) assists the NSC, NSAB and the Strategic Policy Group.

More Gulf nations call for lowering tensions between India, Pakistan

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on Wednesday reached out to India, calling for de-escalating the tensions that has erupted following the terror strike in Pahalgam.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar received a call from the Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, and the two sides discussed the latest development in India-Pakistan relations.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. FILE PHOTO

Continuing with India's outreach to members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Mr. Jaishankar called up his Danish counterpart, Lars Løkke Rasmussen.

"Glad to talk to FM Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya of Kuwait. Thanked him for Kuwait's solidarity and support in the aftermath of Pahalgam terrorist attack," Mr. Jaishankar said after receiving the phone call from the Kuwaiti side. The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said the two Ministers had discussed "the overall close bilateral relations between the two friendly countries" and "the latest developments on the regional and international arenas".

The Saudi Foreign Ministry issued a formal statement expressing "concern over the escalating tensions", and called upon "both countries to de-escalate, avoid further escalation, and resolve disputes through diplomatic means, while upholding the principles of good neighbourliness and working towards stability and peace in a manner that serves the interests of both their peoples and the peoples of the region".

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are the latest among the Gulf countries to discuss the India-Pakistan situation.

On Tuesday, the Foreign Minister of the UAE, Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, was one of the recipients of a number of telephone calls that Mr. Jaishankar made to discuss the evolving situation with members of the UNSC as well as close partners of India.

Mr. Jaishankar also called several UN Security Council members to ostensibly thank the member countries for the statement issued by the UNSC after the terror attack.

Vaishnaw insists SECC, State efforts were 'surveys'

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

While announcing that the Union Cabinet has decided to enumerate caste in the next Census, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw made it a point to argue that the 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) and caste enumeration exercises conducted by some State governments were just "surveys".

"The Census is a Union subject, but some States have done it (caste enumeration). Some States had done it well, while some States have done this purely from a political angle in a non-transparent manner," Mr. Vaishnaw said at the Union Cabinet briefing, in a reference to the Bihar, Karnataka and Telangana governments which have done caste enumeration.

The Union government is considering codifying a list of castes and sub-castes to ensure the number of castes is not as unwieldy as it was in the 2011 SECC.

The Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana goverments had all drawn up a list of castes and communities, while leaving room for people to identify with communities that might not be on the list. For instance, Bihar had 214 entries in the list of castes, Karnataka had over 1,300 and Telangana had over 200. All three States used their respective State list of castes, sub-castes, and communities to arrive at the list for enumeration.

While the SC and ST lists for each State are singular and decided upon by Parliament, Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are categorised separately by State and Union Territory governments as well. The Central list of OBC lists 2,650 communities across the country, while an independent analysis of State OBC lists showed over 3,651 communities categorised as such.

The Bihar government began conducting a caste-based survey in 2022, announcing its report about a year later. The Telangana government announced its decision to undertake a survey in January 2024 and announced its completion in about a year as well. In Karnataka's case, the survey was conducted in 2015 when the State was run by a Congress-led government, and a report based on the data collected then was finalised and submitted to the government only in 2024. The Bihar survey covered 13.07 crore people across the State, which is slightly higher than what its population was projected to be in 2023, according to Government of India estimates. The Telangana survey covered 3.54 crore people, which comes to about 92.91% of the State's projected population at the time. Karnataka's survey covered a total of 5.98 crore, almost 95% of the then-projected population of the State.

Findings challenged

However, the findings of the caste enumeration exercise in each of these States have been challenged by Opposition leaders and certain communities alike. In Bihar and Karnataka, one of the criticisms was that the survey did not cover all of the population. Both the Karnataka and Telangana surveys have been questioned for their estimates of Backward Classes population, with accusations of an undercount.

Mr. Vaishnaw stressed that the Narendra Modi-led government would conduct the exercise "transparently".

Step to realising Ambedkar's dream: Minister

NEW DELHI

The decision to enumerate caste in the upcoming Census is a "historic" and "effective" measure to "give respect to the socially and economically deprived people in the country, make them self-reliant and empowered" and a "decisive step towards realising the dreams of Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, Union Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar said on Wednesday. In a social media post on X, Mr. Kumar congratulated the "sensitive" Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "ensuring social justice"

DGMOs hold talks on ceasefire violations

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Ceasefire violations in Jammu and Kashmir spread from the Line of Control (LoC) to the International Border (IB) on Wednesday, as small arms clashes continued for the fifth straight day. Meanwhile, Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan talked over a hotline on Tuesday.

An Army spokesperson said Pakistan Army posts initiated unprovoked small arms fire across the LoC opposite the Naushera, Sunderbani and Akhnoor sectors in the Jammu region. The IB in the Pargwal sector in Jammu also saw exchange of fire. In the Kashmir Valley, unprovoked small arms firing was reported from posts across the LoC in Baramulla and Kupwara districts.

Meanwhile, the DGMOs of both countries spoke over a hotline to "discuss the unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan".

Despite court order, J&K policeman and kin shifted to Punjab

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

In spite of a Jammu and Kashmir High Court order, a family of nine, including a policeman, were rounded up in J&K's Poonch and shifted to Punjab for repatriation to Pakistan on Wednesday.

The move comes at a time of looming uncertainty over the hundreds of women from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) with spouses in J&K.

Police constable Ifthikar Ali, his three brothers and five sisters were rounded up by the J&K Police and shifted to Punjab, according to Mr. Ali's wife.

"I have three children and their father has been taken away to be sent to Pakistan. He has worked in the J&K Police for 26 years. How did he become a Pakistani?" she said.

The family on Tuesday approached the J&K High Court, which directed that the petitioners "should not be asked or forced to leave J&K". In his order, Justice Rahul Bharti said: "Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, is directed to come forward with furnishing of an affidavit with respect to the status of property holding if any by the petitioners in their own name and right, or by reference to their father Faqur Din, in reference to Mauza Salwah tehsil Mendhar district Poonch."

Ms. Ali said she and her family members had tried to approach both the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) after the court order.

"The DC says the SSP will help and the SSP says the DC will help. We fail to understand why my husband was shifted in spite of the court order," she further said.

In a separate case, two sisters aged 66 and 60 were rounded up for repatriation to Pakistan after 43 years of residence in Rajouri's Thanamandi.

Congress issues warning to leaders deviating from party view on terror attack

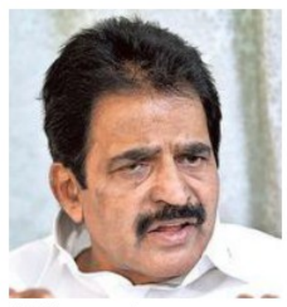
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal has written to all State unit chiefs, general secretaries, MPs, heads of frontal organisations, and other office-bearers of the party to ensure that no one "diverges from the official line" on the Pahalgam terror attack.

Mr. Venugopal's letter, dated April 29, was shared on Wednesday by Lok Sabha member Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on social media platform X.

"Any deviation, misrepresentation or off the cuff remark that diverges from the official line shall be deemed as a serious breach of discipline," Mr. Venugopal said.

The Congress leader's directive comes after the comments of several leaders on the April 22 incident in Jammu and Kashmir generated controversy,



K.C. Venugopal

with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alleging that Pakistani media was using them to target India.

A social media post from the Congress's official handle, now deleted, which targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also kicked up a political storm.

Addressing his party colleagues, Mr. Venugopal said the Congress was "deeply anguished by the reprehensible terrorist attack in Pahalgam and stands in unwavering solidarity with the nation during this hour of grief".

He noted that the Indian National Congress must exemplify unity, maturity, and responsibility at this critical juncture, and referred to the resolution adopted by the Congress Working Committee (CWC) on April 24.

Strict action

"This resolution must serve as the sole basis for all public expressions of the party's stance on the matter," Mr. Venugopal said. "Any contravention of this directive will invite strict disciplinary action without exception."

While the CWC resolution fully backed the Centre on any action against Pakistan, the principal Opposition party also called for a probe into security lapses and intelligence failures in the resolution.

However, several Congress leaders made comments that were not in sync with the party's official position.

Caste count seen as a strategic move to weaken Opposition plank

The announcement, which comes ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls, has longer-term implications too; the outcome is likely to open avenues for new political negotiations, coalitions, and party politics as well as emergence of new aspirations

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet's decision to proceed with caste enumeration as part of the decadal Census exercise has potentially weakened a significant Opposition plank, while also reflecting the BJP-led government's calculations regarding the identification of both dominant and dominated communities within the caste framework and its potential future implications.

The Congress had been demanding a caste census for some time, and such exercises had been announced in Congress-ruled States, including Karnataka and Telangana, where surveys have reportedly been completed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has previously spoken of four categories he described as marginalised in Indian society: youth, women, the poor, and farmers. The issue has the potential to be significant in the upcoming polls in Bihar.

The Congress had been demanding a caste count and such exercises had been announced in Congress-ruled States. FILE PHOTO

Announcing the Union government's decision, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw referenced attempts by State governments led by the Congress or other Opposition parties, stating some had conducted such exercises well, while others had "created doubts in society". He added that the decision to include caste enumeration in the decadal Census would "strengthen the social and economic structure of our society".

While there are immediate political considerations including neutralising an important Opposition plank, the move has other, longer-term implications.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, political scientist Badri Narayan, author of a biography of Bahujan Samaj Party founder Kanshi Ram, said the enumeration of castes within the Census exercise would likely lead to the emergence of new identities and aspirations. He elaborated that this assertion of the marginalised might initially occur separately but would ultimately coalesce into larger groups, opening avenues for new political negotiations, coalitions, and party politics.

"Assertions, ruptures and similar developments will happen, opening the space for political negotiation," Mr. Narayan said.

He added that caste enumeration would lead to "the identification of both the dominant and the dominated, which will have a positive effect in terms of targeting welfare."

The experience of the Congress in Karnataka, where dominant communities such as the Vokkaligas and Lingayats have raised issues about the State-wide caste survey, serves as a case in point.

The government, for its part, also highlighted reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among the general category as part of its aim for welfare for all sections "without causing stress in any section of society", potentially addressing concerns that may arise among upper castes.

Political scientist Ashwani Kumar observed, "The narrative pushed by the government therefore is not for fragmentation but for harmony through power sharing." He said it would be a golden opportunity for better power-sharing and for deepening democracy.

Rahul welcomes 'sudden announcement' of caste count, demands timeline

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Welcoming what he described as a "sudden announcement" of a nationwide caste count, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday demanded a timeline for the exercise.

He urged the Centre to remove the 50% cap on reservations and ensure quotas in private educational institutions under Article 15 (5) of the Constitution.

Mr. Gandhi asserted that the Congress's pressure on the government worked, but was quick to add that caste count should not be like the women's reservation law without a specific timeline.

"This was our model, I am glad they have adopted it but what we want is that we are given the dates by when this will be done and there should be budgetary provision for this," Mr. Gandhi said at a press conference here.

Rahul Gandhi

He said the Centre should follow the Telangana census model and offered help to the Centre to design a similar model. "In Telangana, the questions have been developed by a process of consultation, not a closed but an open process. We want like the national census to follow some of the ideas and we would be more than happy to help the government develop the national census on similar lines," he said.

Mr. Gandhi, who has been demanding a caste count for the past two years, claimed that the 50% cap on reservations was "becoming an impediment to the progress of backward castes, Dalits and Adivasis and and it needs to be demolished". Calling the caste census as a new paradigm of development, he said, "We want to go beyond the caste census and understand what is the participation of 90% of our population in the power structure of country. And we want to give them access to power".

On Pahalgam attack

Mr. Gandhi also used the briefing to address Prime Minister Narendra Modi directly, and said those involved in the Pahalgam terror attack must pay a price.

"Whoever they are, wherever they are, they have to pay for it and they have to pay for it properly, not in some half-hearted way," he said.

Opposition engaged in a rat race to take credit for govt.'s decision: Chouhan

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday questioned the Congress's record on conducting a caste count.

He asserted that its leadership – particularly Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi – must first account for the party's inaction during previous regimes before claiming credit for the recent move by the Union government.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Chouhan alleged that the Opposition alliance, including the Congress, was engaged in a "rat race" to take credit for a decision made by the Union government.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan

"When in power, they did not carry out a caste census. But now, sitting in the Opposition, they are clamouring for it. Rahul*ji* must answer why successive Congress governments failed to implement such a census," Mr. Chouhan said. He further claimed that former Prime Ministers from the Congress had opposed the idea of a caste-based census.

Citing the assurances given by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Parliament, Mr. Chouhan said a group of Ministers was constituted to examine the matter, but a caste census was ultimately not conducted. Instead, the Congress-led UPA government had carried out the Socio-Economic and Caste Census in 2011, which, according to Mr. Chouhan, was marred by inaccuracies.

He said that the proposed caste count would be carried out in a transparent manner, ensuring that all sections of society are taken into consideration.

The Hindu Huddle to have a discussion on the many shades of womanhood on screen

SAMI-SABINSA GROUP
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INDIA IN DIALOGUE
Co-powered by

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MUMBAI

It is a fascinating moment for Indian cinema. While acts of machismo still dominate the screen, Indian films and film industries are breaking out of their ingrained androcentrism.

Across regions and languages, artists and directors – via nuanced, sensitive and lyrical explorations of the female experience – are broadening the boundaries of storytelling. And while women filmmakers and actors are at the forefront of this change, some of these films are also beautifully helmed by male directors and writers, transcending biases linked with artistic endeavour.

For *The Hindu* Huddle, internationally acclaimed actor-turned-filmmaker Nandita Das (*Manto*, *Zwigato*), powerhouse performer Shahana Goswami (*Santosh*, *Despatch*) and visionary director-screenwriter Jeo Baby (*The Great Indian Kitchen*, *Kaathal - The Core*) will sit down to discuss the many shades of womanhood and feminine power on screen.

The Hindu Huddle 2025 is presented by Sami-Sabinsa Group	■ State partner: Meghalaya tourism
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The session – "The female gaze: Redefining cinema on the global stage" – will be moderated by Shilajit Mitra, film critic of *The Hindu*. The Huddle, a marquee event of The Hindu Group, is to be held in Bengaluru on May 9 and 10.

Various topics

The speakers will delve into how the film industry, long shaped by patriarchal hierarchies, has, over time, seen women break barriers and assert their voice. But while women-led narratives are celebrated, is parity and acceptance being achieved? The discussion will also address issues of censorship and self-censorship. Films steeped in the politics of liberation – social, physical, sexual – often come under intense societal scrutiny. What, then, are the challenges of bringing these narratives to a wider audience?

Finally, the conversation will consider the rising global recognition of gender-sensitive cinema out of India. Even as soft power narratives dominate, how is an alternative view of Indian cinema reaching the world?

If you have any questions that you would like our moderator to ask the panellists, write to us at huddle@thehindu.co.in

NDA partners and Opposition celebrate Centre's decision to conduct caste count

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

In a rare moment of convergence, the Opposition and the ruling alliance partners from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are celebrating with equal gusto the Centre's decision to conduct caste count along with the decadal Census.

Both the Samajwadi Party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal have claimed victory for themselves, with former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav claiming that the decision is a result of "collective pressure", while the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav termed it an "ideological victory". "Only an honest Census will ensure that every caste receives its rightful share and rights proportional to its population," Mr. Akhilesh added.

RJD chief Lalu Prasad in a post on social media platform X in Hindi said that "socialist ideas, once dismissed or ridiculed" are eventually adopted by mainstream political forces. "What we socialists proposed 30 years ago – be it reservation, caste census, equality, fraternity, secularism – others take decades to follow. There is still a long way to go," he said.

He said that the first caste-based survey in India was successfully carried out in Bihar under the *Mahagathbandhan* government.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar commended the decision. "Conducting a caste census will help determine the population of different sections, which will facilitate the formulation of plans for their uplift and development. This will accelerate the country's development," he said.

Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) leader Chirag Paswan said the government has neutralised the Opposition with this move.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
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STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

(₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025
		(Audited)					
1	Total Revenue from Operations	1,353.99	1,278.13	5,209.74	1,530.59	1,466.48	5,955.42
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional item)	162.10	174.34	668.09	164.25	178.12	715.00
3	Net Profit for the period (before tax)	174.60	174.34	680.59	164.25	178.12	715.00
4	Net Profit for the period (after tax)	134.37	132.54	517.01	124.49	134.41	541.75
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	123.58	128.68	517.03	109.39	124.89	543.00
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Re 1 each fully paid up)	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01
7	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (Face value of Re 1/- each) (not annualised) (in Rs.)						
	(a) Basic	6.39	6.31	24.60*	5.92	6.36	25.66*
	(b) Diluted	6.39	6.31	24.60*	5.92	6.36	25.66*

* Annualised

Notes:

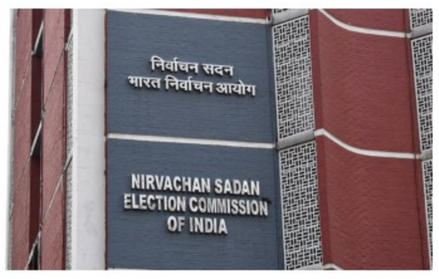
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of the standalone and consolidated financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and on the Company's website www.sundram.com. The full financial results can also be accessed by scanning the QR Code provided below.

2 The Statutory Auditors have carried out an audit for the year ended March 31, 2025 and have issued an unqualified report thereon.

Place : Chennai
Date : April 30, 2025

For Sundram Fasteners Limited
Suresh Krishna
Chairman

INBRIEF



EC conducts training event for grassroots poll officials

The Election Commission of India on Wednesday began a two-day capacity building training programme for electoral registration officers (EROs) and booth-level Officers (BLOs) from Bihar, and EROs and BLO supervisors from Haryana, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh. As many as 369 grassroots election officials are taking part in the training programme, according to an official statement by the EC. The programme is part of the poll body's ongoing preparations for the upcoming Assembly polls in Bihar and other States, the statement said. Earlier this month, around 280 booth level agents from Bihar of 10 recognised political parties were also trained.

Defence Minister to attend Russia's Victory Day parade

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at Russia's Victory Day parade on May 9 that will mark the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory over Germany in the Second World War, official sources said on Wednesday. Russia had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the grand parade to be held in Moscow but India conveyed to Russia that Mr. Singh will attend it. Russia has invited leaders of several friendly nations to attend this year's Victory Day parade. Modi had travelled to Russia twice last year for an annual summit with President Vladimir Putin and to attend the BRICS Summit in Kazan. The Russian President is expected to visit India for the annual summit this year.

SC shifts case on Lokpal order to another Bench

The *suo motu* case stems from the Lokpal's January 27 order assuming jurisdiction to act on complaints against HC judges; he had forwarded a copy of the same to the CJI for guidance

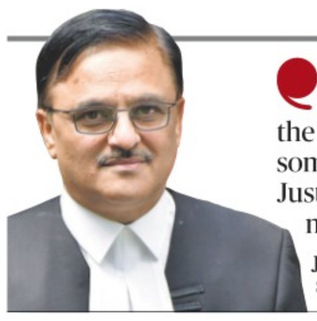
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Special Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice B.R. Gavai on Wednesday shifted a *suo motu* case concerning the jurisdiction of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal to act on complaints against serving High Court judges to another Bench.

The case had stemmed from a Lokpal order of January 27 assuming jurisdiction over High Court judges. The Lokpal had forwarded a copy of its order to the Chief Justice of India, seeking his consultation and guidance on the issue.

Justice Gavai, along with Justices Surya Kant and A.S. Oka on the Bench, indicated that the *suo motu* case would now be referred back to the Chief Justice of India for the constitution of a fresh Bench.

Justice Gavai said it was Justice Oka who had raised the point during a discussion among the three judges on the Bench. "Look at the directions [in the Lokpal order]. This is something for the Chief Justice to decide... It is a matter of propriety," Justice Oka clarified. The Bench scheduled the case to come up next in July, after the summer vacation.



> Look at the directions [in the Lokpal order]. This is something for the Chief Justice to decide... It is a matter of propriety
>
> **JUSTICE ABHAY S. OKA**
> Supreme Court Judge

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna is scheduled to retire on May 13.

The President has notified Justice Gavai's appointment as the next Chief Justice of India. Further, Justice Oka is retiring on May 24. Justice Gavai would be serving as the 52nd Chief Justice of India when the *suo motu* case comes up again for hearing in July.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government, and senior advocates Kapil Sibal and B.H. Marlapalle have been assigned by the court to raise arguments against the Lokpal's jurisdiction over High Court judges. Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar would be presenting the alternative point of view by submitting in favour of the January 27 order.

'Very disturbing order'

The Special Bench, in February, had stayed the Lokpal order, terming it "very disturbing" and a blow to the independence of the judiciary.

Mr. Sibal had urged the apex court to lay down the law on this issue. The Special Bench had made it clear that it would only examine the question of the jurisdiction of the Lokpal, and not look into the merits of the complaint that had resulted in the Lokpal order.

The order of the Lokpal, chaired by the former Supreme Court judge Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, was based on a complaint that an Additional High Court judge had influenced an Additional District Judge, and later another High Court judge, to decide in favour of a private company.

It was alleged that the company had been a client of the judge during the latter's earlier years as an advocate.

In a 13-page order, the Lokpal had concluded that High Court judges were "public servants" and came within the ambit of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act of 2013.

The anti-corruption body had assumed jurisdiction to inquire or investigate complaints about High Court judges on the ground that, unlike the Supreme Court, the High Courts in India were constituted by British parliamentary Acts – the Indian High Courts Act, 1861, and the Government of India Act, 1935 – and Letters Patent of the British monarch.

The Lokpal had found the argument that a High Court judge was outside the ombudsman's jurisdiction "too naive".

The Lokpal concluded that High Court judges came within the ambit of Clause (f) of Section 14(1) of the 2013 Act.

Girls do better than boys in ICSE and ISC examinations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) Class 10 examination has registered a pass percentage of 99.09% in for 2024-25. The results were declared on Wednesday.

A total of 2,52,557 candidates had appeared for the exam conducted by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CICSE), of which 53.33% were boys and 46.67% were girls.

"Girls have done better than boys, with a pass percentage of 99.37%. Boys have achieved a pass percentage of 98.84%," a CICSE spokesperson said. In all, 1,561 boys (1.16% of those who appeared) and 747 girls (0.63% of those who appeared) could not clear the exams.

Of the 5,387 Scheduled Caste candidates who took the exam, 98.57% passed; and of the 3,596 Scheduled Tribe candidates who took the exam, 98.67% passed. Of the 17,495 Other Backward Classes candidates who took the exam, 99.06% passed.

Of the 1,184 candidates with learning difficulties such as dyslexia, 112 candidates obtained above 90% marks. In the case of 48 visually challenged candidates, 13 obtained above 90% marks. "The country's southern region has the highest percentage of girls – 49.58% – who appeared in the exam," the CICSE spokesperson said.

Happy faces: Students in Gurugram on Wednesday after ICSE and ISC results came out.

The ICSE exam was conducted in 67 written subjects, of which 20 were Indian languages, 14 were foreign languages, and one was a classical language.

ISC exam results

A total of 99,551 candidates appeared for the Class 12 Indian School Certificate (ISC) exam, of which 52.58% were boys and 47.42% were girls. In the ISC exams as well, girls performed better than boys, with a pass percentage of 99.45%, while the boys achieved a pass percentage of 98.64%.

Fair, remunerative price for sugar cane increased

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Wednesday, has approved fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugar cane for the sugar season of 2025-26 (October-September) at ₹355 a quintal. In the previous season, the amount was ₹340.

The price will be applicable for a basic sugar recovery rate of 10.25%. A decision to provide a premium of ₹3.46 a quintal for each 0.1% increase in recovery over and above 10.25% and a reduction by ₹3.46 a quintal for every 0.1% decrease in recovery was also taken in the meeting.

"However, the government with a view to protect interest of sugar cane farmers has also decided that there shall not be any deduction in case of sugar mills where recovery is below 9.5%. Such farmers will get ₹329.05 a quintal in the ensuing sugar season 2025-26," Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vainshnaw said.

Alleviating hardship: There shall be no deduction in mills where recovery is below 9.5%.

The cost of production of sugar cane for the sugar season in 2025-26 is calculated at ₹173 a quintal.

About five crore farmers and around five lakh workers employed in sugar mills are dependent on sugar cane farming and processing, apart from those employed in various ancillary activities including farm labour and transportation. "The FRP has been determined on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultation with State governments and other stakeholders," Mr. Vaishnaw added.

The Centre said in a release that in 2023-24, out of the dues payable of ₹1,11,782 crore, about ₹1,11,703 crore have been paid to farmers, as on April 28.

As much as 99.92% of the dues has been cleared, and in the current season, out of ₹97,270 crore payable, about ₹85,094 crore have been paid as on April 28, where 87% ues have been cleared.

Study highlights lack of access to right antibiotics in eight countries

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

Only 7.8% of patients with drug-resistant infections in India received an appropriate antibiotic, a study of eight nations published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal has revealed. Lack of access to appropriate treatment for such serious infections increases morbidity and mortality, besides driving up healthcare costs and prolonging hospitalisation.

Research carried out by Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), a non-profit health organisation, has revealed that a significant number of multidrug-resistant infections in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), including India, are not being treated appropriately, because of large gaps in access.

Health concern: Lack of access to proper treatment for seious infections increases morbidity.

The study looked at which antibiotics were available to treat nearly 1.5 million cases of carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative (CRGN) infections across eight geographically diverse and populous LMICs – Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan and South Africa. India's 7.8% measures against an average of 6.9% across all eight countries.

The researchers defined and estimated two key parameters – the need for treatment or total number of resistant bacterial infections; the number of individuals potentially initiated on appropriate treatment, specifically focusing on CRGN infections. Researchers used *The Lancet*'s "Global Burden of Antimicrobial Resistance" (GRAM) study and IQVIA data for 2019 to arrive at the numbers.

"We were looking at three aspects," explains Jennifer Cohn, GARDP's Global Access Director and senior author of the study.

"These were: To evaluate the access to antibiotics gap; create better data that will be an imperative to better define the cascade of care; and look at strong programmes or innovations that enabled better antibiotics stewardship in nations."

"We all know that high-end antibiotics are extensively overused and misused in countries like India, contributing significantly to resistance against these life-saving drugs. But this paper reminds us of an equally alarming issue – lack of access to these same antibiotics," says Abdul Ghafur, infectious diseases specialist and founder, AMR Declaration Trust.

"In 2019, India had nearly 10 lakh carbapenem-resistant gram-negative infections, yet less than 1 lakh patients received appropriate treatment. The modelling suggests that around 3.5 lakh deaths occurred due to these infections. So we are caught in a paradox – irrational overuse on one end, and insufficient access on the other," he added.

Centre issues simplified IT returns forms for 2025-26

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Centre has notified Income Tax Return (ITR) forms 1 and 4 for the assessment year 2025-26, simplifying the filing process for individuals earning salary or presumptive income who have long-term capital gains (LTCG) up to ₹1.25 lakh from listed equities.

Previously required to file the more complex ITR-2, these taxpayers can now use the simpler ITR-1 (Sahaj) and ITR-4 (Sugam) forms, respectively.

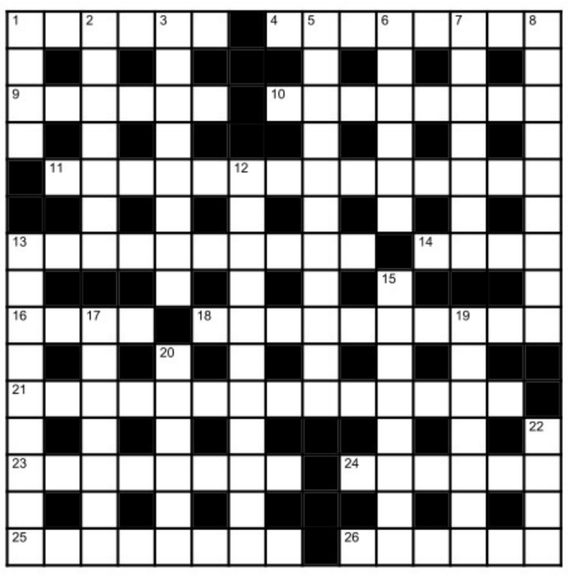
Beyond the LTCG change, the government has introduced other modifications. The forms now feature a drop-down menu in the utility for selecting deductions claimed under sections like 80C and 80GG.

TH CROSSWORD + 14473

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 A Navy craft? I should think so (3,3)
4 Fearsome Don providing guns (8)
9 Scrap in prison room getting reported (6)
10 Choose to drink before, with lead character in the amateur musical drama (8)
11 Ruler traversing India by ship near seaside, treated for glandular fever (7,7)
13 Flowers, say, on fringe of centrepiece in bar reflecting ray of sunlight (10)
14 Ladies' wear from Kashmir - asymmetrically going around (4)
16 Soil remains behind cross (4)
18 Two female champions gripping ends of torso in competition (4-2-4)
21 Struggling, maybe? Very odd to assume debt - that is the last thing I will do (4,2,4,4)
23 Hot, troublesome, mostly reckless disruptors (8)
24 Rime of the Ancient Mariner? (2-2-2)
25 A yacht's bow and stern submerged in leak before start of summer cruises (3,5)
26 African political group initially involved in deal with moneylending (6)

Down

1 Tips of arrows ricocheted, controlled optimally with the bow (4)
2 One drilling cavity, circling raised seat (7)
3 Runs away, escaping from trap (8)
5 Butterflies piled up near theatre's entrance amidst show (11)
6 Empty refuge camouflaged by overthrown ruler is most difficult to locate (6)
7 Opening segment in latest commercial picture withdrawn (7)
8 Source of red and white pear given out (9)
12 Broken sides of divan crack open completely (4,3,4)
13 Fiancé is fantastic - hotter in couch (9)
15 Spooner John eyes records (8)
17 Crude vessel docked in Sicily's shores (7)
19 American in a hurry accepts suggestions from nationalists, democrats etc (3,2,2)
20 One taking a stroll left, restricted by cautionary signal (6)
22 Donkey's well - nursed by Avtaar (4)

SUDOKU

6	3		2				8	
				5				
	5		3			9		
1		8		4	5			9
		4	7		3	8		
3			8	9		7		4
		9			1		3	
				6				
	1				7		9	2

No.SS6506 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

M	S		I		E		P		C		B			
A	R	T	I	C	U	L	A	R		E	A	R	L	
N		U		E		C		I		R		U		
U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	C	O	U	N	T	E	R
F		Y		U		E		E		L		E		I
A	L	I	G	N	M	E	N	T		E	O	S	I	N
C		N						A		A				G
T	A	G	A	L	O	G		G	U	N	D	O	G	S
U				I		R						U		I
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E		I		E		E		A		I		L		E
D	I	S	T	R	E	S	S		S	I	G	N	A	L	S
		F		A		O		T		H		W		E
	D	I	S	C		M	O	R	A	T	O	R	I	A
		T		Y		E		O		S		Y		T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	3	9	4	1	2	7	5
5	2	4	8	3	7	9	6	1
1	7	9	6	2	5	8	3	4
4	8	5	3	7	2	6	1	9
7	3	1	5	9	6	4	2	8
6	9	2	4	1	8	3	5	7
9	5	8	1	6	3	7	4	2
2	4	6	7	5	9	1	8	3
3	1	7	2	8	4	5	9	6

FAITH

Andal's teachings

Andal's work Tiruppavai is the quintessence of the Vedas. She narrates our duties and responsibilities. Tiruppavai helps us remove our sins and derive God's blessings. Velukkudi Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that we have been in the swirl of the sea of samsara from time immemorial. We forget who we are, what we are up to, and also about God. We have spent considerable time without this realisation and have not repented. It is called the real sleeping mode. The emergence of the idea of rendering service to God is the wake-up stage. Andal says, "*Keleero*", lend your ears to reciting God's names, which is easier as our ears are always open. Only when our minds are clear will it lead us to render service, as the Lord is pleased by service to Him and His devotees

All people should be friendly and not develop hatred. In the 27th verse, she says "Let people enjoy divine bliss together". Acharya Manavala Mamunigal says a person should not become jealous of seeing the prosperity of others. People should develop an attitude that it is God's gift to them. The mortal coil (our physical body) is the medium and instrument for undertaking dharma, and we should foster it properly. We should not indulge in prohibited activities. Our ancestors have shown us a good path by following themselves.

In the 17th verse, Andal appeals to give in charity clothes, water and food. In the 5th, she says to think of God with our minds, chant with the tongue and worship by offering flowers. It is called *mano, vak, kayam* – mind, speech and body. It emphasises aligning these three for spiritual progress and devotion to God.

INBRIEF

High prices no deterrent as gold shines on Akshaya Tritiya

Gold and silver purchases for Akshaya Tritiya gathered momentum on Wednesday afternoon, with jewellers expecting sales volumes to remain steady despite record high prices. The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) anticipates a 35% jump in value terms compared with last year. Buying precious metal on Akshaya Tritiya is a tradition widely followed in south India that has gradually spread across the country with increased awareness. PTI

HPCL, ADNOC Trading ink LNG trading supply pact

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) and UAE's ADNOC Trading have signed a liquefied natural gas (LNG) trading supply agreement. Under the pact, the first such between the entities, the product will be received at the recently commissioned Chhara terminal of HPCL LNG. Besides meeting the captive demand of HPCL, the product will be marketed to other downstream customers. Chhara LNG Terminal has regasification capacity of 5 MMTPA.

Coromandel International Q4 net profit surges ₹578 crore

Coromandel International reported consolidated net profit for March quarter surged to ₹578 crore from ₹164 crore a year earlier on the back of sustained momentum across its businesses. The net profit came on a nearly 28% increase in total income to ₹5,114 crore (₹3,996 crore). The company has declared a dividend of ₹9 per share (face value of ₹1 each) for 2024-25. The company's board approved the appointment of Natarajan Srinivasan as executive vice chairman.

'Adani Group's settlement pleas delayed by SEBI review of processes'

Reuters
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has kept in abeyance pleas by the Adani group and its offshore investors to settle a raft of regulatory charges until internal processes are reviewed, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The SEBI, where a new chief took charge in March, is reviewing rules of settlement pleas, the regulator said last month. A lack of uniformity in the settlement process and unclear rules on the nature of penalties imposed has prompted the review, the first source said.

The review could take three months after which the Adani pleas will be taken up under new processes, said the second source.

Under SEBI's settlement process, investors and market participants pay a monetary fine or agree to regulatory directions without admission or denial of guilt. The sources declined to be identified as the status of investigations and pleas are private.

SEBI and the Adani group did not respond to e-mails seeking comment.

SEBI began investigating the Adani group in 2023 after U.S.-based shortseller Hindenburg alleged improper use of tax havens and stock manipulation by the group, setting off a $150 billion sell-off despite the conglomerate's denials of wrongdoing.

FIIs turn net buyers of Indian stocks, first time in 4 months

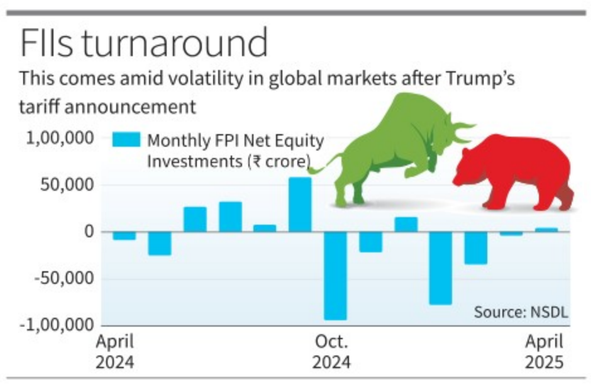
Foreign institutional investors pumped in ₹4,223 crore in April this year; increase in inflows into Indian equities assumes significance following the 90-day pause on U.S. tariffs until July 9

Lalatendu Mishra
Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Foreign institutional investors (FII) turned net buyers for the first time in four months, investing ₹4,223 crore in Indian stocks in April 2025.

FIIs were net sellers in seven months in fiscal 2025, and the outflows increased significantly after October 2024, when the foreign investors sold equity worth almost ₹1 lakh crore.

The data comes amid volatility in global markets after U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff announcement. Foreign funds bought debt securities and sold equities in March 2025 and this trend reversed in April. The increase in foreign inflows in equities assumes significance following the 90-day pause on U.S. tariffs until July 9. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had said recently that India may be among the first few nations to seal a trade deal with the U.S.



The optimism of foreign funds was "mainly because of the dollar index, which was around some 105, 104 levels, going down to 100 or 99, and our currency also relatively did much better," said Shrikanth Chouhan, head of research at Kotak Securities. A large section of the foreign investment inflows were into banking, financial services and insurance.

Rupee's best gain

Meanwhile, the rupee on Wednesday witnessed its most significant single-day appreciation since November 2022 by gaining 42 paisa against the U.S. dollar.

India trade deal soon, says Trump

Amiti Sen
NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump has indicated that India and the U.S. will have a trade deal soon. He said the ongoing talks on the proposed India-U.S. bilateral trade agreement (BTA) are "coming along great".

Indian officials, however, believe that it will take at least two months even to work out an early tranche with limited commitments restricted to a few goods.

Sources said the first full tranche of the agreement may take as long as six months. "India [trade talk] is coming along great. I think we'll have a deal with India," Mr. Trump told reporters on Tuesday at the White House.

Earlier on Tuesday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the U.S. was "very close" to a trade deal with India.

Significantly, he said it was "easy to negotiate" with India because the issues were with regard to "very high tariffs" and they could be confronted directly.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

IOC Q4 net surges 50% to ₹7,265 crore

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Indian Oil Corporation reported standalone net profit for March quarter rose 50% to ₹7,265 crore from ₹4,838 crore a year earlier, as revenue from operations declined to ₹2,17,725 crore (₹2,19,876 crore).

The higher net profit came on the back of inventory gains and even as under-recoveries on domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) rose.

On a sequential basis, the net profit surged. The company had clocked ₹2,873.53 crore in the December quarter.

The earnings soared as the company processed crude oil bought at lower prices and sold products made from it when prices had risen, resulting in inventory gains.

These inventory gains undid ₹5,601 crore of losses on LPG sales and lower refining margins.

The company has declared a dividend of ₹3 per equity share (face value of ₹.10 each).

(With PTI inputs)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,242	-0.05
US Dollar	84.54	0.49
Gold	98,550	-0.90
Brent oil	63.13	-1.89

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2301.30	-29.30
Adani Ports	1216.50	0.10
Apollo Hosp	6977.00	-15.50
Asian Paints	2425.70	-25.40
Axis Bank	1185.00	-2.30
Bajaj Auto	8030.00	-48.50
Bajaj Finserv	1951.60	-115.30
Bajaj Finance	8634.50	-458.50
Bharat Elec	314.10	-3.00
Bharti Airtel	1864.50	40.70
Cipla	1550.10	8.60
Coal India	385.30	-3.80
Dr Reddys Lab	1183.90	7.90
Eicher Motors	5567.00	-12.00
Eternal Ltd.	232.52	1.41
Grasim Ind	2737.50	-8.20
HCL Tech	1567.50	-1.50
HDFC Bank	1925.00	16.20
HDFC Life	743.70	28.65
Hero MotoCorp	3827.40	-25.30
Hindalco	624.65	2.10
Hind Unilever	2342.10	20.40
ICICI Bank	1427.00	-2.80
IndusInd Bank	838.40	1.45
Infosys	1500.10	2.60
ITC	425.80	-0.20
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	260.42	2.79
JSW Steel	1029.80	-5.80
Kotak Bank	2208.10	3.10
L&T	3341.00	18.70
M&M	2928.80	19.20
Maruti Suzuki	12257.00	416.00
NestleIndia	2388.20	0.70
NTPC	354.55	-2.40
ONGC	244.45	-1.23
PowerGrid Corp	307.45	4.50
Reliance Ind	1405.00	5.30
SBI Life	1765.80	35.70
State Bank	788.65	-23.90
Shriram Finance Ltd.	611.70	-3.00
Sun Pharma	1832.30	26.80
TataConsumerProduct	1165.80	-3.10
Tata Motors	644.25	-21.35
Tata Steel	140.08	-1.42
TCS	3453.70	-18.80
Tech Mahindra	1503.00	7.70
Titan	3379.70	1.10
Trent Ltd.	5172.50	-219.00
UltraTech Cement	11641.00	-228.00
Wipro	241.50	0.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 30

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.29	84.61
Euro	95.79	96.15
British Pound	112.62	113.05
Japanese Yen (100)	58.91	59.14
Chinese Yuan	11.60	11.65
Swiss Franc	102.14	102.53
Singapore Dollar	64.52	64.78
Canadian Dollar	60.91	61.17
Malaysian Ringitt	19.52	19.62
Australian Dollar	53.88	54.09

Source:Indian Bank

Strides Pharma gets U.S. FDA nod for pain drug

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Strides Pharma Science Limited (Strides) on Wednesday said step-down wholly-owned subsidiary, Strides Pharma Global Pte. Ltd., Singapore, has received approval for Celecoxib Capsules, 100 mg, 200 mg, and 400 mg, from the United States Food & Drug Administration (U.S.FDA).

The product would be made at the firm's facility in Puducherry, according to a company statement.

Celecoxib is a selective COX-2 inhibitor used for the management of pain and inflammation associated with various conditions including osteoarthritis.

Adani Power Q4 net slips 5% to ₹2,599 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Adani Power Ltd. reported a 5% year-on-year drop in Q4 consolidated net profit to ₹2,599 crore. Revenue rose 6.45% to ₹14,145 crore.

For FY25, consolidated net profit plunged 39% to ₹12,750 crore. Revenue rose 10% to ₹54,503 crore.

"Adani Power has posted ever higher operating and financial performance for FY 2024-25, aptly demonstrating the strength and resilience of the Adani Portfolio companies," said S. B. Khyalia, CEO.

"As we progress quickly in the next phase of capacity expansion, we are prioritising capital and cost efficiencies to sharpen our competitive edge and extend our sectoral leadership across key parameters. We are employing deep, cross-domain expertise to make the business future ready to continue delivering superior returns over the long term.

"Our unrelenting commitment to sustainability, will continue to guide us on our growth journey."

The firm is prioritising capital and cost efficiencies.

Aster DM acquires 5% stake in QCIL for ₹849.13 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aster DM Healthcare has announced the completion of its acquisition of 5% stake in Quality Care India Ltd. (QCIL) from BCP Asia II TopCo IV Pte. Ltd. (BCP) and Centella Mauritius Holdings Limited (Centella) through a share swap ahead of QCIL's merger with Aster DM Healthcare.

The merger was announced in November 2024. The transaction was completed by acquiring 1,90,46,028 equity shares of Quality Care India Ltd. by Aster DM Healthcare from BCP and TPG for a value of ₹849.13 crore, Aster said in a statement.

SC upholds courts' power to alter arbitral awards on limited grounds

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in a majority judgment, on Wednesday held that courts have power to modify arbitral awards in limited circumstances.

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, heading a five-judge Constitution Bench, authored the majority 4:1 opinion that courts were judicially empowered under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to alter arbitral awards on restricted grounds.

Modifications by a court were allowed to amputate the invalid portion of an award from its valid part,

Changes allowed to remove invalid parts of an award from its valid part, or, to get rid of clerical errors

or, to get rid of obvious typographical, computational, clerical errors in the award, or, if the interest post the award needed to be changed.

"The scope of judicial intervention under Section 34 is confined to the limited grounds expressly provided. The court does not possess the power to correct errors of fact, reconsider costs, or, engage in a review of the merits of the arbitral award," the majority judgment said.

CJI Khanna held that the Supreme Court was, however empowered to flex its inherent powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to do complete justice in case of an arbitral award. Nevertheless, the judgment cautioned that this power must be exercised with within the limits of Constitutional power.

Dissenting opinion

In his dissenting opinion, Justice K.V. Viswanathan held that an arbitral award cannot be modified unless expressly permitted by the arbitration statute.

"While exercising power under Section 34 of the 1996 Act, and consequently, the courts in the appellate hierarchy do not have the power to modify an arbitral award," Justice Viswanathan held.

Justice Viswanathan's opinion mirrored that of the Centre, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, which argued that the power to modify had to be statutorily conferred.

Lawyers who had argued against the court's power to modify said this would result in court orders and decrees replacing arbitral awards. They said allowing courts to change arbitral awards would lead to international repercussions when awards are sought to be enforced under foreign conventions.

Is Hypertension Affecting Younger People More Than Before?

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is no longer just a concern for the older population. Increasingly, younger Indians – even teenagers – are developing it. Hypertension occurs when the force of blood against the walls of the arteries is consistently too high. This happens when the heart pumps blood with more force than normal (due to stress, physical exertion, or hormonal changes) or when arteries narrow or stiffen (due to plaque build-up, ageing, or unhealthy lifestyle). Over time, this pressure can damage blood vessels and organs like the heart, kidneys and brain, leading to severe conditions like heart disease, kidney failure, and stroke, if left untreated.

Normal blood pressure is 120/80 mmHg. If it rises to 140/90 mmHg or more, based on an average of two or more readings taken on separate occasions, a diagnosis of hypertension is made. There is also a warning zone called prehypertension, which is an early indicator that lifestyle changes, such as dietary adjustments, regular exercise, and stress management, are crucial to prevent escalation to hypertension.

Rising Risk Across the Board

Traditionally, hypertension was seen mostly after the age of 40. But today, even students and young professionals are at risk. Recent data from Apollo Hospitals' Health of the Nation 2025 report (based on preventive health check data of 2.5 lakh individuals) shows that 9% of high school students and 19% of college students in India are already prehypertensive. Among adults, 21% of men and 8% of women below 40 years are hypertensive.

"Apollo's health check data (since 2019) shows 25% of people are hypertensive and 50% are prehypertensive, making annual health checks crucial for proactive action."

Dr Jhuma Bagchi
General Physician
Apollo Multispeciality Hospitals, Kolkata

Post-menopause, women experience a sharper rise in BP due to hormonal changes, particularly the decline in oestrogen levels. Oestrogen helps keep the arteries flexible and promotes better blood flow. While 15% had hypertension before menopause, 40% had it after menopause. Regular BP checks are therefore crucial for women at all stages of life. Among men, 31% in the 40-55 age group and 39% in those over 55 are hypertensive.

What's Causing the Shift?

- **Unhealthy Lifestyles:** Lack of exercise, eating fast food high in salt and fat, smoking, and drinking alcohol are major contributors.
- **Stress:** Academic pressure, job stress, and financial worries are pushing BP up in the young.
- **Obesity:** Rising rates of overweight and obesity, even among children, increase the risk of hypertension.
- **Poor Sleep:** Irregular sleep patterns and screen time overload disturb the body's natural rhythm and raise BP.
- **Family History:** Genetics plays a strong role – if hypertension runs in the family, young people are more likely to develop it.

The Way Forward

The good news is that hypertension can be caught early and managed well. Regular health checks help detect rising BP before it causes silent damage. Doctors may suggest lifestyle improvements – such as cutting down on salt, staying active, reducing stress, reducing alcohol intake and sleeping better – and in some cases, medication. With early action and awareness, it is possible to prevent the serious complications of hypertension and live a healthier, longer life.

Scan to read Apollo's Health of the Nation 2025 report

Apollo ProHealth PRESENTS
Sincerely, Your Doctor
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HINDU

A preventive healthcare initiative by **Apollo ProHealth** and **The Hindu**

Have questions for our doctors?
WhatsApp us at 89392 83283
or email us at sincerelyyourdoctor@thehindu.co.in
with your name, city and query.

WASHINGTON

Trump blames Biden's record after U.S. economy contracts

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump lashed out at his predecessor Joe Biden's economic record on Wednesday after U.S. financial markets fell on the news that the American economy unexpectedly contracted in the first three months of the year. The GDP of the U.S. decreased at an annual rate of 0.3% in the first quarter. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. hits Iran with new sanctions ahead of next round of talks

REUTERS

The U.S. on Wednesday imposed sanctions on entities it accused of being involved in the illicit trade of Iranian petroleum and petrochemicals ahead of a new round of U.S.-Iran negotiations on Saturday. Seven entities based in the UAE, Turkiye and Iran along with two vessels were targeted by the curbs. REUTERS

JERUSALEM

Several injured, hundreds at risk from wildfires near Jerusalem

AP

Dark plumes of smoke billowed above highways near Jerusalem on Wednesday as rapidly spreading wildfires caused several injuries and prompted Defence Minister Israel Katz to declare the situation a "national emergency". Israel's rescue agency said hundreds of civilians were at risk from the worst brushfires in years. AFP

PARIS

Iran hangs man accused of spying for Israel after unfair trial: activists

AFP

Iran on Wednesday executed a man convicted of espionage for Israel and involvement in the killing of a Revolutionary Guard but activists said he was sentenced to death after an unfair trial and a confession obtained by torture. Mohsen Langarneshin, 34, was hanged at dawn at Ghezelhesar prison in Karaj outside Tehran. AFP

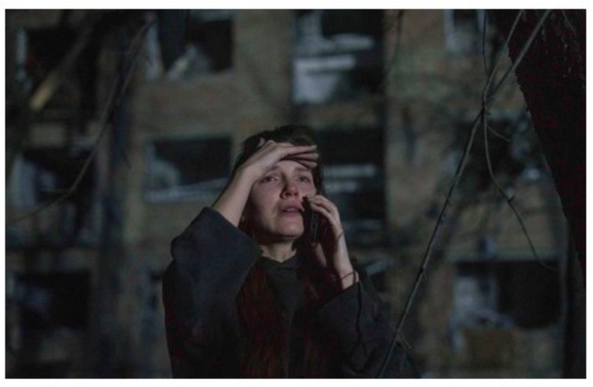
A deal to end the war with Ukraine cannot be achieved quickly: Kremlin

The process is far too complex and an array of small nuances needs to be solved before a settlement, says Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov; Russia's drone attack on Kharkiv injures 45, its troops capture the village of Nove in Donetsk

Associated Press
KYIV

Clinching a deal to end the Russia-Ukraine war "is far too complex to be done quickly," a senior Kremlin official said on Wednesday, as the U.S. labours to bring momentum to peace efforts and expresses frustration over the slow progress.

Meanwhile, a nighttime Russian drone attack on Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv wounded at least 45 civilians, officials said. The United Nations reported that the number of Ukrainian civilian casualties in the more than three-year war has surged in recent weeks amid Washington's attempts to broker a peace agreement.



Not in sight: Russia has cited readiness for direct talks with Ukraine without preconditions to seek a peace deal. AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin backs calls for a ceasefire before peace negotiations, "but before it's done, it's necessary to answer a few questions and sort out a few nuances," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Mr. Putin is also ready for direct talks with Ukraine without preconditions to seek a peace deal, he added.

"We realise that Washington wants to achieve quick progress, but we hope for understanding that the Ukrainian crisis settlement is far too complex to be done quickly," Mr. Peskov said on his daily conference call with reporters. "There are many details and an array of small nuances that need to be solved before a settlement."

Meanwhile, Russia said on Wednesday it had captured the village of Nove in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region.

"Units of the Western military group liberated the settlement of Novoye in the Donetsk People's Republic," Russia's Ministry of Defence wrote on Telegram.

The village, located close to the town of Lyman, was taken over by Russian forces at the beginning of their 2022 all-out offensive and was re-captured by Ukraine during a swift 2022 counter-offensive.

Grand celebrations mark Vietnam's victory in 1975

Srinivasan Ramani
HO CHI MINH CITY

The rally marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the South and the reunification of Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City. GETTY IMAGES

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Vietnam's reunification, marking the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, the Socialist Republic held a large parade on Wednesday. On April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese forces, including the Viet Cong, defeated the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese government and took Saigon. The city was later renamed Ho Chi Minh City, after the key figure in the Communist Party of Vietnam's (CPV) struggle for a unified, independent, and socialist Vietnam. He had also led the party to victories against the colonial French in the First Indochina War.

Speaking at the parade, To Lam, the CPV's general secretary (who took office in August 2024), emphasised the sacrifices and contributions of the generation of Vietnamese – including "officials, generals, officers, soldiers, militia, guerrilla fighters, youth volunteers and frontline workers and martyrs", in achieving the reunification. This was also showcased in cultural shows and tableaux as part of the parade.

Mr. To also outlined Vietnam's progress and future goals, emphasising reconciliation, national unity, and a commitment to international cooperation and peace. Vietnam's economy has developed dramatically since the end of the war in 1975 and is now a middle-income one. Mr. To spoke of the aim to become a "socialist-oriented" developed economy by 2045. The key part of his speech was the mention of the "private sector" as the "most important driver of the national economy", which has grown significantly since the Doi Moi reforms were initiated in the 1980s.

Thousands of Vietnamese attended the ceremony, with many having celebrated for days prior, even camping on sidewalks along the parade route in the lead-up to it. Festooned with banners and flags – that of Vietnam, the Communist Party and the distinctive blue, red, gold star flag of the Viet Cong – the parade featured marches by thousands of soldiers from multiple branches of the Vietnam military and flyover shows by the Vietnam Air Force's helicopter detachments and Sukhoi fighter jets.

The parade was attended by the leadership of the CPV and the Vietnam government and included invitees such as the main leader of neighbouring Cambodia, Hun Sen, and the general secretary of Laos's ruling Lao People's Revolutionary Party, Thongloun Sisoulith. While there was talk of the Donald Trump administration advising against diplomats from attending the parade in the run-up to it, Susan Burns, the U.S. consul general in Ho Chi Minh city reportedly attended the event.

(The writer is in Vietnam on an invitation to cover the event)

Israel strikes Syria to 'shield Druze' as clashes spread

Agence France-Presse
DAMASCUS

Israel struck Syria on Wednesday in what it called a "warning" against attacks on the Druze minority, in a military intervention that came as sectarian clashes spread near Damascus, killing 13 persons.

The sectarian violence, and Israel's intervention, present huge challenges to the Islamist authorities who overthrew Bashar al-Assad, and follow massacres last month in Syria's Alawite coastal heartland.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel "struck the organisation of an extremist group preparing to attack the Druze population" in Sahnaya.

Deadly sectarian clashes erupted overnight in Sahnaya, a town home to people from Syria's Druze and Christian minorities southwest of the capital. Israel had previously warned Syria's Islamist rulers against harming the Druze, who follow an offshoot of Islam and make up about 3% of Syria's population.

Bangladesh grants bail to monk Chinmoy Das

He is accused of leading a movement to protect Hindus in the Muslim-majority country

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

A Bangladesh court on Wednesday granted bail to an outspoken monk leading a movement for the protection of Hindus in the Muslim-majority nation, but he remains in custody pending a possible appeal.

Chinmoy Krishna Das was granted bail by Dhaka's High Court, his lawyer Apurba Kumar Bhattacharjee said.

"We expect him to be released from jail in a week or so, if the government decides not to appeal to the Supreme Court," Mr. Bhattacharjee said.

Mr. Das, who was arrested in November 2024 for sedition for allegedly disrespecting the Bangladeshi flag during a rally, denies the charges.

Aneek R. Haque, an additional attorney general, said the government "have not yet decided whether we will file an appeal".

In November, when an earlier bail hearing was denied in Chattogram, violent protests erupted with devotees of Mr. Das going on the rampage, and lawyer Saiful Islam Alif was killed.

Alif's family have filed cases against individuals they claim were linked to his death – including 58 Hindu lawyers accused of vandalism and carrying explosives.

Russia, N. Korea, start work on road bridge

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia and North Korea started building the first road bridge between the neighbours on Wednesday, both countries touting it as a symbol of their growing alliance.

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Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin announced that work for the road link across the Tumen river had started, in a video meeting with the Chairman of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, Pak Thae-song. The river forms the natural border between the two countries.

There is already a rusting, Soviet-era rail bridge across the river, but Mr. Mishustin said a road link was needed to "symbolise ourstriving towards strengthening friendly relations".

"It will become an eternal historical memorial structure symbolising the unbreakable Korean-Russian friendly relations," North Korea's Pak Thaesong said, according to a Russian translation.

'Over 1,000 targets hit in Yemen since March'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Washington reported striking over 1,000 targets in Yemen since mid-March in an air campaign against Houthi rebels, as the U.K. said on Wednesday it carried out a joint strike on drone-making facilities.

The Houthis began targeting shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in late 2023 and the U.S. responded with strikes against them starting early the following year.

In the latest round of its air campaign since March 15, "USCENTCOM strikes have hit over 1,000 targets, killing Houthi fighters and leaders", Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Britain said it had joined the U.S. in carrying out strikes against Houthi targets.

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

QUOTATION NOTICE

"Supply and Installation of Shredding Unit at OWC Palayam".

Sealed quotations are invited for the Supply and Installation of a Shredding Unit at OWC Palayam, as per the technical specifications and scope of work provided in the bid document.

SL. NO.	Name of Project	Bid Submission Last Date	For More Details
1.	Supply and Installation of Shredding Unit for 500 kg/hr as per technical Specifications mentioned in the bid	6th May 2025, 11:00 AM	https://smartcity tvm.in/

Interested vendors may refer to the detailed scope, technical specifications, and other terms and conditions available on the official website of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Ltd.

(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LTD.

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvananthapuram - 695027, Ph: 0471-2380910/912

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited for the supply of the following

1. **Taggant Embedded Ink for letter press label printing**
   Tender id: 2025_CDIT_762675_1
2. **Aluminum Metalised Tamper Evident Polyester Film**
   Tender id: 2025_CDIT_762696_1
3. **Aluminum Metalised Taggant Embedded Tamper Evident Film**
   Tender id: 2025_CDIT_762711_1

Last date of submission of bids: 08.05.2025 03.00 PM
For details and online submission of bid please visit:
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

30.04.2025 Registrar, C-DIT

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

ई–निविदा सूचना सं./ e- Tender Notice No :CMG/C/CON/258701 तिथि/ Date. 28/04/2025

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, **"सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार के SPAG(B) भवनों में डीआई जल लाइन उपलब्ध कराना तथा आईवीएमएच, एसएमपीसी यूनिट–2 में महान भवन हेतु चहार दीवारी, द्वार, रैंप से जोड़ते हुए गलियारे का निर्माण" (₹ 51 लाख)** के लिए ई–निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज **07/05/2025** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** पर जा सकते हैं।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Providing DI water line for SPAG(B) buildings and Construction of compound wall, ramp, gate for Mahan Building, Connecting Corridor at IVMH, SMPC Unit-2, SDSC SHAR" (₹ 51 Lakhs)**. Tender documents can be downloaded up to **07/05/2025, 14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

Avoid Plastic Save Rain Water — Create Rain Water Harvesting Structure

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY CORPORATION

Request for Proposal Notice No: 12/2025-26

The tenderers willing to submit tenders for **Operation & Maintenance of the Integrated Bus Terminal at Panjappur, Tiruchirappalli City Corporation** on PPP Mode for a period of **15 years,** are requested to submit tenders through E-Tendering procedure in **http://tntenders.gov.in** as well as through sealed hard copies on or before **3.00.p.m.** of **11.06.2025,** which will be downloaded and opened at **04.00.p.m** in the same day. If the date of receipt of tender happens to be holiday, then tenders will be received in the succeeding working day at the same time and venue.

Pre bid meeting in this regard will be held on **12.05.2025** at **11.00 am** at **Commissioner's Conference Hall, Corporation Main office.** Other details may be obtained in the Engineering section, Main office during office hours in working days.

Tender Conditions are available in the above said website.

(E1/4923/2025(Main)
DIPR/1670/TENDER/2025

Commissioner,
Tiruchirappalli City Corporation

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/26 -2025-26

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. in Lakh) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0711/0425 RFx 7000036116 1) Elimination of 100/22kV Vasai S/S, establishment of new 220kV GIS (6 Line & 4 T/F bays) in 100/22kV Vasai S/S Switchyard & establishment of new 100kV GIS (4 Line Bays) in 220/100/22kV Vasai S/S under EHV O&M Division, Boisar. 2) Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 51 nos. of 22kV GIS bays (i.e., 3 no. of T/F LV Bays, 13 nos of Feeder Bays, 3 no.of PT bay, 3 no. of Bus Coupler Bay and 2 No. of Tie Bay for connecting existing GIS to new GIS scheme) at 220/22kV Nalasopara S/S under EHV O&M Division Boisar.	1,9878.22 / 25,000.00	13.05.2025 17:00 / 13.05.2025 17:30
Pre-bid meeting Date, Time & Venue	Date: 21.04.2025 Time: 16:00 Hrs. Venue: 8th Floor, MSETCL, "Prakashganga", BKC, Bandra (E), Mumbai Maharashtra 400051.	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-P&C)
Tel.No.022-69852720/022-69852717 Cell.No.09619469933
Email:1) C.E. (CPA) 2) E.E. (Group-VII), CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, eegrp7@mahatransco.in,
For further details visit our website **http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in**
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

REALITY

Getting attention is part of being a cricketer in India, says Dravid

R.V. MOORTHY

I can't control what people are talking about Vaibhav Suryavanshi. I'd love to say that we shouldn't shower him with that much attention. Maybe I am being naive, as that is not going to happen. It is part of being a cricketer in India, it is impossible to distance yourself from and (you tend to get) sucked into it — RR coach Rahul Dravid.

LEVEL ABOVE

Captaining an IPL side a very different challenge, feels Parag

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

I thought captaining in the IPL will be like leading a domestic side, but it's different. You're managing those who are mainstays of their national teams. I've learned the importance of communication — aligning everyone to a plan while tailoring the message so that players understand it in a way that suits them — RR's Parag.

POSITIVE MINDSET

We will try to come back and finish in the top two: Vipraj

REUTERS

Vipraj Nigam said Delhi Capitals was determined to secure a top-two finish in the league. "We are still in the top four and have five games left. We will try to come back and finish in the top two. In the IPL, you always face ups and downs. The main thing is how strong you are and how positive the team atmosphere is," he said.

GALLANT SKIPPER

It was painful when I was batting: Axar on injury during KKR game

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

DC captain Axar Patel revealed why he had walked off the field during KKR's innings in New Delhi on Tuesday. "My hand dragged on the surface and the skin peeled off. It was painful when I was batting. We have a gap of three to four days before the Sunrisers Hyderabad game," said Axar.

After Chahal performs the 'trick, Shreyas takes over

The leggie spearheads the visitor's death-overs choke as CSK stumbles to 190; the PBKS skipper slams a half-century; Curran's 47-ball 88 in vain; Dhoni's men become the first to be eliminated this year

Collective effort: Chahal's heroics made Shreyas & Co.'s job much easier in the second innings. M. VEDHAN

IPL-18

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

At the halfway stage, when Chennai Super Kings posted a competitive 190 after being put in to bat by Punjab Kings, the fans at the MAC Stadium would have believed their side had a fighting total in hand.

However, Shreyas Iyer (72, 41b, 5x4, 4x6) had other ideas as he led from the front along with Prabhsimran Singh (54, 36b) to hunt down the target in clinical fashion and help their team secure a four-wicket win in an IPL league match on Wednesday.

Openers Prabhsimran and Priyansh Arya got PBKS off to a solid start by taking on the CSK pacers as the visitor reached 51 for one in the PowerPlay. Once Priyansh was dismissed, Prabhsimran and his skipper did not take their foot off the pedal and added 72 for the second wicket.

The former employed the sweep and reverse to good effect against Ravindra Jadeja and then took on Noor Ahmad by using his feet to hit a maximum down the ground.

At the other end, Shreyas brought his experience to play, mixing caution with aggression. The 30-year-old then took charge when he muscled Sam Curran over long-on, followed by a crunching cover drive to get to his half-century.

On a day when slow cutters were proving to be hard to hit, CSK pacers failed to do that as Matheesha Pathirana's poor form continued to hurt the outfit.

In the 17th over, Shreyas punished the Sri Lankan pacer for bowling in the slot by lofting him for consecutive sixes down the ground and then carved one through point for a four.

Headed for exit

At that point, the crowd headed for the exits, and it perfectly summarised Super Kings' miserable campaign.

Earlier, Curran starred with the bat for the five-time champion, stroking a fine 88 (47b, 9x4, 4x6). The southpaw's effort helped set a good platform for the host. But after he departed, the host crumbled, losing the last five wickets for six runs, when Yuzvendra Chahal (3-0-32-4) scalped four wickets in the 19th over, including a hat-trick, to wrest back the momentum for PBKS.

In the end, those runs left on the table proved costly for the Men in Yellow, who became the first team to be eliminated this year.

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Shaik Rasheed c Shashank b Arshdeep 11 *(12b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Ayush Mhatre c Shreyas b Jansen 7 *(6b, 1x4)*, Sam Curran c Inglis b Jansen 88 *(47b, 9x4, 4x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja c Inglis b Harpreet 17 *(12b, 4x4)*, Dewald Brevis b Omarzai 32 *(26b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shivam Dube c Shashank b Arshdeep 6 *(6b, 1x4)*, M.S. Dhoni c Wadhera b Chahal 11 *(4b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Deepak Hooda c Priyansh b Chahal 2 *(2b)*, Anshul Kamboj **(Impact Player for Mhatre)** b Chahal 0 *(1b)*, Noor Ahmad c Jansen b Chahal 0 *(1b)*, Khaleel Ahmed (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-3, nb-1, w-12): 16; Total (in 19.2 overs): 190.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-21 (Rasheed, 2.5 overs), 2-22 (Mhatre, 3.1), 3-48 (Jadeja, 5.5), 4-126 (Brevis, 14.1), 5-172 (Curran, 17.4), 6-184 (Dhoni, 18.2), 7-186 (Hooda, 18.4), 8-186 (Kamboj, 18.5), 9-186 (Noor, 18.6).

KINGS BOWLING
Arshdeep 3.2-0-25-2, Jansen 4-0-30-2, Omarzai 4-0-39-1, Harpreet 2-0-21-1, Chahal 3-0-32-4, Shedge 3-0-40-0.

PUNJAB KINGS
Priyansh Arya c Dhoni b Khaleel 23 *(15b, 5x4)*, Prabhsimran Singh **(Impact Player for Chahal)** c Brevis b Noor 54 *(36b, 5x4, 3x6)*, Shreyas Iyer b Pathirana 72 *(41b, 5x4, 4x6)*, Nehal Wadhera c Jadeja b Pathirana 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Shashank Singh c Brevis b Jadeja 23 *(12b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Josh Inglis (not out) 6 *(6b, 1x4)*, Suryansh Shedge c Noor b Khaleel 1 *(3b)*, Marco Jansen (not out) 4 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-3, w-3): 6; Total (for six wkts. in 19.4 overs): 194.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-44 (Priyansh, 4.4), 2-116 (Prabhsimran, 12.6), 3-136 (Wadhera, 14.3), 4-180 (Shashank, 17.3), 5-188 (Shreyas, 18.4), 6-190 (Shedge, 19.2).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING
Khaleel 3.4-0-28-2, Kamboj 2-0-20-0, Jadeja 3-0-32-1, Noor 4-0-39-1, Curran 3-0-27-0, Pathirana 4-0-45-2.

Toss: Kings; **PoM:** Shreyas.
PBKS won by four wickets with two balls to spare.

Next assignment

CSK: May 3 vs RCB
Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

PBKS: May 4 vs LSG
Dharamshala, 7.30 p.m.

Hat-tricks in the IPL

Bowler	Opponent	Year
L. Balaji (CSK)	KXIP	2008
Amit Mishra (DD)	Chargers	2008
Makhaya Ntini (CSK)	KKR	2008
Yuvraj Singh (KXIP)	RCB	2009
Rohit Sharma (Chargers)	MI	2009
Yuvraj Singh (KXIP)	Chargers	2009
Praveen Kumar (RCB)	RR	2010
Amit Mishra (Chargers)	KXIP	2011
Ajit Chandila (RR)	PWI	2012
Sunil Narine (KKR)	KXIP	2013
Amit Mishra (SRH)	PWI	2013
Pravin Tambe (RR)	KKR	2014
Shane Watson (RR)	SRH	2014
Axar Patel (KXIP)	GL	2016
Samuel Badree (RCB)	MI	2017
Andrew Tye (GL)	RPS	2017
Jaydev Unadkat (RPS)	SRH	2017
Sam Curran (KXIP)	DC	2019
Shreyas Gopal (RR)	RCB	2019
Harshal Patel (RCB)	MI	2021
Yuzvendra Chahal (RR)	KKR	2022
Rashid Khan (GT)	KKR	2023
Yuzvendra Chahal (PBKS)	CSK	2025

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Royal Challengers	10	7	3	0	14	0.521
Punjab Kings	10	6	3	1	13	0.199
Mumbai Indians	10	6	4	0	12	0.889
Gujarat Titans	9	6	3	0	12	0.748
Delhi Capitals	10	6	4	0	12	0.362
Lucknow Super Giants	10	5	5	0	10	-0.325
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	5	1	9	0.271
Rajasthan Royals	10	3	7	0	6	-0.349
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	3	6	0	6	-1.103
Chennai Super Kings (E)	10	2	8	0	4	-1.211

* Till the CSK-PBKS match on April 30 — E: Eliminated

Buoyant Rajasthan takes on bullish Mumbai in its quest to stay alive

Tarun Shastry
JAIPUR

On Monday, Gujarat Titans bore the brunt of a Vaibhav Suryavanshi storm at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium. At just 14 years and 32 days, he made the cricketing world sit up and take notice.

Displaying maturity beyond his age, Suryavanshi dismantled seasoned bowlers with utter disdain during his breathtaking century.

Concerns persist

Despite that morale-boosting victory, concerns persist for Rajasthan Royals.

While the win over Titans kept Royals mathematically alive in IPL 2025, a bigger test of their playoff credentials awaits in the form of a red-hot Mumbai Indians here on Thursday.

Under pressure

The top-order remains under pressure to score the bulk of the runs, while the middle-order frequently falters, particularly during run chases.

Up for it: Rajasthan players will hope for another magical night in Jaipur. R.V. MOORTHY

The bowling attack, apart from Jofra Archer, has been leaking runs willy-nilly.

Adding to the woes

To add to the team's woes, fielding has also been below par.

MI – from languishing in the penultimate spot just a fortnight ago – has staged a dramatic comeback, winning five consecutive matches to sit in the third spot heading into this contest.

Rohit Sharma's return to form, Suryakumar Yadav's match-defining performances, and Hardik Pandya's tactical clarity, like the way he has used his bowlers, particularly Will Jacks, have all contributed to MI's revival.

Daunting task

Jasprit Bumrah, fresh from a fiery four-wicket haul against Lucknow Super Giants, will pose the most daunting task for RR's fragile middle-order.

Today's match

RAJASTHAN ROYALS vs. MUMBAI INDIANS

Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 29
RR 14 | MI 15

PREVIOUS MEETING
RR won by **nine wickets**, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Narine continues to work his magic

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

You would never have known from Sunil Narine's characteristically deadpan countenance that he delivered a match-winning performance on Tuesday night. Or indeed that he accomplished a significant milestone in his T20 career.

By snaffling three scalps against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, the 36-year-old took his overall tally for Kolkata Knight Riders to 208 wickets. It is the joint-highest by any bowler for a single team in the shortest version – on par with former England all-rounder Samit Patel's count for Nottinghamshire.

It is a testament to his enduring T20 legacy that Narine has kept himself relevant for more than a decade when most bowlers of his type retreat into oblivion once the element of surprise tapers off.

His figures of 4-0-29-3 were chiefly responsible for KKR sealing a 14-run win over DC.

Narine. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

In the space of six deliveries across the 14th and 16th overs, the West Indian sent back Axar Patel, Tristan Stubbs and Faf du Plessis to reduce Capitals from 136 for three to 146 for six.

"When Sunil came into bowl and picked up two (three) wickets, I thought that was the game for us," KKR skipper Ajinkya Rahane said.

"He's been a champion bowler for this franchise. A match-winner".

Took retirement call in Gabba as I didn't want to repeat circle: Ashwin

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former India off-spinner R. Ashwin thought about retiring after his 100th Test but finally took the call midway into the tour of Australia to ensure the "whole circle" related to his spot in the playing eleven doesn't repeat itself.

Speaking on a newly-launched podcast by Chennai Super Kings, Ashwin told fellow CSK member Mike Hussey that he made up his mind on retirement after not starting the Australia series in Perth.

Ashwin did play the second Test at Adelaide before being left out of the eleven for the third Test at Gabba.

"To be very honest, I wanted to do it after my 100th Test (in Dharamsala, March 2024). And then I thought, ok, let me give it a go in the home season. Because, I mean, you're playing well, and you're getting wickets, you're making runs," Ashwin said.

Ashwin. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

"I thought I'd probably close off with the Chennai Test here (against Bangladesh). I ended up getting a six-wicket haul and a hundred. So it's very tough to quit when you're doing very well.

"I was having a lot of fun, but one of the most important things that was pulling me down was the family time," he said.

INBRIEF

All-round Mehidy helps Bangladesh level series

Mehidy Hasan hit a century and claimed five wickets in a stellar all-around display as Bangladesh crushed Zimbabwe by an innings and 106 runs in the second and final Test at Chattogram on Wednesday.

The scores: Zimbabwe 227 & 111 in 46.2 overs (Ben Curran 46; Mehidy 5/32, Taijul 3/42) lost to Bangladesh 444 in 129.2 overs (Shadman 120, Mehidy 104; Masekesa 5/115).
Player-of-the-Match & Series: Mehidy.

Indian boxers clinch 25 medals in under-15 category

India topped the under-15 category by claiming 25 medals, including 10 gold, by women boxers at the Asian under-15 and 17 championships in Amman on Tuesday. The women secured 10 golds and four bronze medals across the 15 weight categories. Svi (40kg), Milky Meinam (43kg), Princi (52kg), Navya (58kg), Sunaina (61kg), Trushana Mohite (67kg), and Vanshika (70+ kg) all won their bouts unanimously. Four Indian boys contested the finals. Apart from one gold for Sanskar Vinod (35kg), three finished with silver, adding to the seven bronzes.

Pragg jumps to second spot; Fedoseev enjoys 3.5 point lead

Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa bounced back from a poor start to climb to second in the standings at the end of the first half of the blitz section in the Superbet Rapid & Blitz tournament, part of the Grand Chess Tour. Praggnanandhaa's efforts held him in good stead for a second day running. The Indian had not done well on the first two days of rapid chess but has come back strongly showing his expertise in the blitz section. Fedoseev enjoys a huge 3.5 point lead over second place Praggnanandhaa.

Standings after nine rounds rapid and blitz: 1. Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo) 19; 2. R. Praggnanandhaa (15.5); 3-5: Aravindh Chithambaran, Levon Aronian (USA); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 14.5 each; 6. Firouzja Alireza (Fra) 14; 7-8: Duda Jan-Kryzsztof (Pol), Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou) 13 each; 9. David Gavrilescu (Rou) 9; 10. Veselin Topalov (Bul) 8.

Dembele sinks Arsenal as PSG seizes edge in semifinal

The French striker scores in the opening minutes at the Emirates stadium and then Luis Enrique's team holds on to the lead with a composed display that keeps the Gunners at bay

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

The winner: Dembele silences the Arsenal home fans after deftly finishing off a move he had started for PSG. REUTERS

Paris Saint-Germain seized the advantage in its Champions League semifinal against Arsenal as Ousmane Dembele sealed a 1-0 win in the first leg on Tuesday.

Dembele struck in the opening minutes at the Emirates Stadium and Luis Enrique's side held on to the lead with a composed display that kept Arsenal at bay.

PSG will head into the second leg at the Parc des Princes on May 7 as favourite to reach the final as it looks to win the tournament for the first time.

But the French champion should take nothing for granted given its history of epic European collapses.

Arsenal's first defeat in 18 home European matches was a painful blow to its own bid to win a first Champions League crown.

Mikel Arteta had labelled Arsenal's run to the semifinals a "beautiful story".

The last chapter might make for frustrating reading, but it isn't dead and buried just yet.

The Gunners had beaten holder Real Madrid 5-1 on aggregate to reach their first Champions League semifinal since losing to Manchester United in 2009. Arsenal could not replicate the swaggering display that blew Madrid away 3-0 in the first leg, despite a frenzied atmosphere as kick-off approached.

When Arsenal's players gathered for a pre-match huddle in the tunnel, Declan Rice implored his teammates to give everything as he roared "if we don't have the ball we die".

A video message from Arteta played on the Emirates screens struck a similarly rousing chord as the Spaniard urged fans to raise the roof.

But PSG had already eliminated Premier League champion Liverpool in the last 16 and Aston Villa in the quarterfinals, after coming back from two goals down to beat Manchester City in the league phase.

Arsenal was the one English side it had failed to conquer, losing 2-0 in north London in October.

However, PSG was without the influential Dembele for disciplinary reasons on that occasion and Luis Enrique insisted his side was "more complete" seven months on.

Dembele took just four minutes to prove the point as the France star started and finished a ruthless raid.

The result (semifinal, first leg): Arsenal 0 lost to PSG 1 (Dembele 4).

Goa eases past MBSG, enters the final

SUPER CUP

Joan Mathew Jacob
BHUBANESWAR

Stunning strike: Goa players celebrate with Borja after he swung the ball in and caught the MBSG goalkeeper off his line.
BISWARANJAN ROUT

Manolo Marquez took another step to his dream farewell as FC Goa (FCG) beat Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) 3-1 in the Super Cup 2025 semifinal at the Kalinga Stadium here on Wednesday.

FCG began the game on a more aggressive note, making its intentions clear with hard tackles and sliding challenges in the final third.

The constant pressure finally paid off when it won a corner in the 20th minute. Borja Herrera played the ball short on the right before getting it back and curling it into a dangerous area.

ISL's Emerging Player of the Season, Brison Fernandes, did just enough to get ahead of Abhishek Suryavanshi and get the slightest of touches to send the ball into the back of the net.

The lead, however, lasted just three minutes after Ashique Kuruniyan left his marker in the dust on the left before playing a low pass into the six-yard box, where Suhail Bhat had an easy finish.

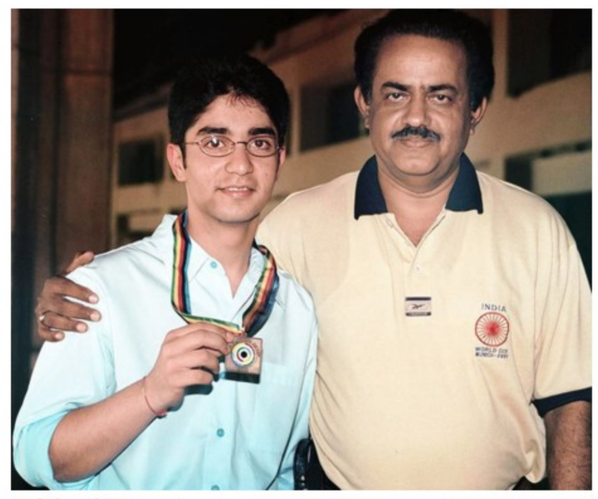
FCG restored its lead six minutes into the second half when Dejan Drazic was brought down by Dheeraj inside the penalty box. Iker Guarrotxena stepped up to the spot and smashed the ball into the middle of the goal.

Seven minutes later, Dheeraj had another moment to forget when Borja swung the ball into a crowded penalty area and caught the goalkeeper off his line, curling it into the top-left corner to secure a healthy lead.

Later in the day, Jamshedpur FC secured the other spot in the final after edging Mumbai City FC 1-0.

Rei Tachikawa's strike in the 87th minute proved to be the difference as the Red Miners reached the summit clash for the first time in their history.

The results: Mohun Bagan SG 1 (Suhail Bhat 23) lost to FC Goa 3 (Brison Fernandes 20, Iker Guarrotxena 51-pen, Borja Herrera 58); Mumbai City FC 0 lost to Jamshedpur FC 1 (Rei Tachikawa 87).



Guiding light: Bindra with National shooting coach Thomas.
FILE PHOTO: M LAKSHMAN

Sunny Thomas, former National shooting coach, passes away

Sports Bureau
KOCHI

Sunny Thomas.

Professor Sunny Thomas, the national coach during the golden phase of Indian shooting, passed away at his home in Uzhavoor in Kottayam on Wednesday.

He was 83 and is survived by his wife Josamma, two sons and a daughter.

Thomas was the national shooting coach for 19 years, from 1993 to 2012, and during this period the country won four Olympic medals including Abhinav Bindra's gold in Beijing 2008.

That was India's first-ever Olympic gold in an individual event. Thomas was presented the Dronacharya Award in 2001.

"Deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Prof. Sunny Thomas. He was more than a coach, he was a mentor, guide and father figure to generations of Indian shooters," wrote five-time Olympian and former World champion Bindra on *X*. "His belief in our potential and his relentless dedication to the sport laid the foundation for India's rise in international shooting. He played a big role in my early years and I'll always be grateful for his support and guidance. Rest in peace, sir. Your impact is everlasting."

Indian shooters had won hundreds of medals, in five Olympics, six World Championships, over 50 World Cups, six Asian Games and five Commonwealth Games, under his guidance.

The other Olympic medals during Thomas tenure as coach came from Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (silver, Athens 2004) and in the 2012 London Olympics from Vijay Kumar (silver) and Gagan Narang (bronze).

Thomas took to shooting at the Kottayam Rifle Club and was a multiple State champion and a national champion in 1976.

Thomas was also a professor and head of the English department at Uzhavoor's St. Stephen's College for nearly 30 years.

The funeral will be held at Thevakkal, near Kakkanad, in Kochi at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday.

'Difficult to fill the void'

"This is a void which Indian shooting will find very difficult to fill," said Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, president of National Rifle Association of India.

"Professor Thomas was an institution in shooting and India would not have become the shooting power that it is today, without his selfless contribution to our sport. The entire shooting community is in grief."

New National record posted in 4x100m in tough conditions

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

On cloud nine: Gurindervir, Amlan, Manikanta and Animesh after the race. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The four fastest men in Indian athletics together set a new 4x100m National record in challenging conditions, clocking 38.69 seconds to finish on top at the second Indian Open Relay competition at the Sector 7 Stadium in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

The quartet of Gurindervir Singh, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar and Amlan Borgohain bettered the previous NR of 38.89 seconds set at the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Hot and humid

The group from Reliance had clocked 38.93 seconds, just 400th of a second off the NR, in the heats earlier in the day, but clearly had enough in their tanks to push harder in the hot and humid weather.

Interestingly, they will only be part of the Indian relay side at the Asian Championships in May, although the AFI has not sent any individual entries in the 100m.

Two of the other three members of the relay side for the Asian meet - Ragul Kumar and Tamilarasu - helped Tamil Nadu finish second (39.83 seconds) along with Manav and Sam Vasanth.

In the 4x400m, the two teams from NCC, with four each from the Asian Championships squad, finished 1-2 as the AFI looks to revamp the team for the future with fresh faces.

The results (winners only):
Men: 4x100m: 1. Reliance 38.69s (Gurindervir Singh, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar, Amlan Borgohain).
4x400m: 1. NCC1 3:04.31 (Jay Kumar, Manu T.S., Vishal T.K., D. Chaudhary).
4x100m u-20: 1. Reliance 40.60s (Mahendra Santa, Abhay Singh, Astik Pradhan, Pratik Maharana).
4x400m u-20: 1. Tamil Nadu 3:12.13 (Vignesh V., Jerome Sanjay N.J., Nakul Prabhu, Sharan M.).
Women: 4x100m: 1. NCOE Tvm 44.12s (Srabani Nanda, Sneha S.S., Abhinaya Rajarajan, Nithya Gandhe).
4x400m: 1. NCC 3:32.64 (Sneha K., Rupal, Jisna Mathew, Subha Venkatesan).
4x100m u-20: 1. Haryana 51.83s (Neha, Saniya, Lakshita Maan, Aayushi).
4x400m u-20: 1. Tamil Nadu 3:47.25 (S. Chandrakumar, Punitha Durairajan, Harshita R., Mari M.).
Mixed: 4x100m: 1. Tamil Nadu 43.44s (Angel Silvia M., Vysali Ganesan, Tamilarasu S., Gitson I.).
4x400m: 1. NCC 3:19.24 (Jay Kumar, Sneha K., Vishal T.K., Rupal).
4x100m u-20: 1. Punjab 45.29s (Jaslin Saini, Lovejot Kaur, Varun Sharma, J. Dhillon).
4x400m u-20: 1. Punjab 3:32.21 (Tarandeep Singh, Saroj Rani, Harmandeep Singh, Supreet Kaur).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Vagdev and Punya are the U-13 champions

Vagdev Champaknath and M.N. Punya emerged the U-13 singles boys' and girls' winners respectively in the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State-ranking badminton tournament in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Punya also clinched the doubles title in the company of Johanna Ahilan to make the victory sweeter.

In the U-11 category, A. Agastya and Shreeya A. Rao both managed the similar feat of bagging a double.

The results: Singles: U-13: Boys: Vaagdev Champaknath bt N.D. Nakulan Hari 18-21, 21-18, 21-16; **Girls:** M.N. Punya bt Vrishti Kaveramma 21-11, 21-17.
U-11: Boys: A. Agastya bt Pranav Reddy Pocha 21-19, 21-12; **Girls:** Shreeya A. Rao bt Samruddhi Tandle 21-17, 21-13.
Doubles: U-13: Boys: Ishaan Pathak & Rohan Karuturi bt Daksh Dhotrad & Sanshray Sunil 21-16, 21-15; **Girls:** Johanna Ahilan & Punya bt Shambhavi Sharma & Sumayyah Shariff 21-10, 21-12.
U-11: Boys: Agastya & Tharun Chandramohan bt Neev Shushrut Adigon & Pranav Nimmagadda 21-16, 21-18; **Girls:** J.M. Niharika Raj Niharika & Shreeya bt Jyotsna Vinod & Prisha Rao 21-13, 21-17.

Hitasha surges ahead

Hitasha Sisodiya, with a total pinfall of 977, surged into the lead at the end of the women's round one of the ARC South Zone tenpin bowling tournament in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Sabeena Saleem is in second spot (936) while P. Geetha (922) and Sana Saleem (920) are in third and fourth positions respectively.

Among men, Parvez Ahmed continued to lead with a total pinfall of 1174, followed by Lalith Kumar (1158), Naveen Siddam (1132) and R. Kishan (1121).

Triumphant: Winners in various categories at the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State-ranking badminton.

Karnataka beats Gujarat

Karnataka bt Gujarat 2-0 in a Group-B match of the Swami Vivekananda U-20 Men's National Football Championship in Narainpur, Chhattisgarh on Wednesday.

The result: Karnataka 2 (T. Premish 25, Nirupam Gowda 90+2) bt Gujarat 0.

Nischal scores century as Vultures enters final

D. Nischal (140) helped Vultures CC secure the first-innings lead and enter the final of the KSCA (Group I) first division league for Sir Mirza Ismail Trophy. In the summit clash, Vultures will meet Swastic Union CC (1), which overcame Swastic Union CC (2) on the basis of first-innings lead.

The scores: Semifinals: Vultures 327 in 89.2 overs (Srujan Nandan 85, D. Nischal 140, K.P. Karthikeya 56, Vidwath Kaverappa 3/54) drew with Sir Syed Cricketers 227 in 61.1 overs (Atharv Malviya 29, P. Dhruv 28, Nikin Jose 69, L.R. Kumar 52, Shikhar Shetty 3/54, Abhishek Ahlawat 3/48).

Swastic Union (1) 245 in 57 overs (Vishal Onat 28, E.J. Jasper 91, S. Rakshith 35, Bhimrao Navale 43, Nathan D' Mello 3/22) & 134/2 in 24.2 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 27, A. Rohan Patil 66 n.o., E.J. Jasper 39 n.o) drew with Swastic Union (2) 182 in 60 overs (Hardik Raj 34, Adhoksh 53, K. Shashikumar 6/63).

Aaryansinh cracks 138

Aaryansinh Chavda top-scored with 138 as FUCC thrashed Panthers CA by 146 runs in the Tiger Cup under-16 cricket tournament at the JSSATE-KSCA ground on Wednesday.

The scores: RXCA 137/9 in 30 overs (Gokul Sai Shashank 4/19) lost to Kreeda Kshetra 138/4 in 23.4 overs (Arush Jain 26).

Playsmart 192/7 in 30 overs (Nikhil S. Gowda 61, M. Praneel Gaurav 39, Atharv Deshpande 38, Saad Rayyan Khan 3/45) lost to Six 193/2 in 27.2 overs (Yuvaan Porwal 89, P. Ritesh 39, Saad Rayyan Khan 27).

FUCC 335/3 in 30 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 138, Aditya Jha 85, Chirag Harsha 68) bt Panthers 189/9 in 30 overs (Sujan Gunapal 119, Harshvardhan Shahi 3/25).

Samprasiddi 118/8 in 28 overs (N. Bhuvan Tejas 46, Sukruth B. Kukke 25, R. Ayush 3/27) lost to Boot Camp 124/3 in 12.4 overs (M. Tanshh Krishna 38, A.H. Dhruv 30).

BTM crushes FC Deccan

BTM FC defeated FC Deccan 8-0 in the BDFA A-division football league championship on Wednesday.

The results: A-div.: BTM 8 (Nakshatra Jain 42, 56, 58, 60, M. Yogith 50, 62, 80, Puiring Shang 79) bt FC Deccan 0; Income Tax 5 (S. Lathesh 16, K.S. Akshay 23, Narendrakumar 51, 57, M. Pandyan 74) bt Sree Gajanana 4 (C. Harris Darrell 9, Arunkumar Periyaswamy 29, Jones Muthuraj 34, 48).

C-div.: Muslims Heroes bt Town SC Hoskote 4-0; East West bt Bangalore Bluies 4-0.

Thumping win for Sree Renuka FC

Sree Renuka FC pumped 19 goals to no response against a hapless Sarva Seva FC in the KSFA women's B division football league championship on Wednesday.

The results: B-div.: Sree Renuka 19 (Tajal Hansi 4, 5, 6, Sakshi Ganesh Chitagi 16, 17, 30, Naorem Tina 20, 39, 44, 46, 49, Alisha 23, 24, 25, 48, Yukata Patil 30, Prerana N. Baniya 41, 47, Kinjal Jadha 42) bt Sarva Seva 0; BFLA 2 (Bharathi 12, Rivka 36) drew with Mercurial 2 (Divya 18, 21); United Aces 2 (S. Sherky 45, Musfirah Fathima 49) bt Nakshatra 1 (Rachana 39).

C-div.: Noel Wilson drew with FC White Field 0-0; FX FC Bangalore bt Freelances 2-1; NE Youth 3 bt PKR 3-0; William drew with Blues 0-0.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 12 a.m. (Friday)